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WORLD OF SPORT

4 pages of NFL preview, it's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

Peres 'confused' by Assad's attitude to talks

DAVID RUDGE and agencies

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres yesterday voiced disappointment at what he said was Syrian President Hafez Assad's "pessimistic tone" and his refusal to enter into high-level talks.

Peres told reporters he was confused by Assad's statement at a Sunday Cairo news conference that higher-level talks demanded by Israel would block the road to peace.

"There was a disappointment yesterday in the appearance of Assad, both because of his pessimistic tone and also because of one answer, which was a bit strange," Peres said.

When he asked him, "Why don't you raise the level of the negotiations to a higher level," he said: "This is the disease, not the cure. And I didn't understand why it is a disease."

A Knesset official said Peres told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee earlier that Israel's attempt to raise the level of negotiations with Syria had been turned down.

He told reporters Peres said negotiations with Syria are stalemated in part because Damascus has failed to keep its agreement to hold talks between senior military officers.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, meanwhile, blamed the Syrians for the deadlock in the talks. He said Syria is being inflexible on key issues.

He maintained that it is difficult to continue negotiations under such circumstances.

Lawyer held hostage at gunpoint

RAINE MARCUS

SCORES of police and anti-terror squad units cordoned off a Petah Tikva street last night, after an armed man held his lawyer hostage over a NIS 4,500 debt.

The drama began at around 8 p.m. when Eli Gal phoned his friend, lawyer Avi Oren, and heard him fighting with another man in his office.

According to Gal, Oren told the man, who was apparently recently released from prison, that it is not "worth his while to get into trouble" and if the fight is over NIS 4,500, he would give him the money.

"Put the gun down," Gal reported Oren said.

Oren, a member of the Petah Tikva City Council, is a well-known criminal lawyer.

At around 11, a police special negotiation squad, including a psychologist, succeeded in talking to the kidnapper from another building, but police were taking no chances and kept forces at a low profile in the surrounding area. By midnight, the man had not surrendered.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin affixes the first signature to the Jerusalem 3000 scroll in a ceremony at the Knesset last night, as Mayor Ehud Olmert (center) and Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss look on. (Isaac Harari)

Fireworks show tells the tale of one city

HELEN KAYE

THE Jerusalem skies have seldom seen anything like the fireworks and laser extravaganza that ended the Jerusalem 3000 opening ceremonies last night.

It was a glorious evening, nippy but glorious, and in a cloudless sky a crescent moon rose benignly, unaware that it would be a star in this show.

Crowds had been gathering in the streets surrounding the Israel Museum for hours. From the speaker system came requests to please stay behind the barriers, and that lost children could be found in the tent provided to allow parents to pick them up.

Promptly at 8, dozens of rock-

ets streaked and spun into the sky, bursting into a firmament of colored stars and rain and clouds.

"Oh, I love those, I really love those," said a lady on the Knesset balcony, where the throng of guests oohed and aahed, proving that VIPs are like ordinary folk when it comes to fireworks.

To Kobi Oshrat's music, the narrator told the story of Jerusalem and of David who made the city his capital, bringing with him the Ark of the Covenant. As the narrator spoke, laser lights made moving pictures on the walls of the museum that changed from

crimson to azure to turquoise. Spanish pyro-artist Alberto Navarro designed it all, fitting the lights and fireworks to suit themes of Jerusalem's history.

When the narrator spoke of the people coming to Jerusalem in their thousands, thousands of twinkly laser stars danced up and over the walls, while in the sky the fireworks looked like revolving galaxies. Then, when the city was destroyed, angry lasers launched themselves onto a fiery background and rockets shrieked like white banshees into a shuddering heaven.

The show ended with a blessing for peace on the rebuilt Jerusalem and in the sky a final rocket filled the horizon with a great umbrella of stars. As they spread and spread, they reached above the moon which shone through them. The ephemeral and the eternal. Now that was some special effect.

Serb general refuses to withdraw

News agencies

SARAJEVO - Defying a NATO ultimatum, the top Bosnian Serb general yesterday refused to withdraw heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, setting the stage for renewed airstrikes.

Journalists in Sarajevo saw two flashes from the direction of a Bosnian Serb armament factory north of the city last night just after the expiry of a UN deadline for Serbs to lift the siege of Sarajevo.

They said they saw flashes from the direction of Vojvoda shortly after the 11 p.m. deadline expired. NATO aircraft could be heard in the sky at the time and in nearby Pale reporters heard loud detonations.

"No one, not even myself, has the right to order the withdrawal," said a letter from Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic, received at UN regional headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia just 3 1/2 hours before the deadline.

The deadline passed with no sign of further moves by the Serb to comply with NATO demands. In Pale, the Bosnian Serb stronghold southeast of Sarajevo, streets were deserted as NATO jets roared overhead.

The letter, addressed to Lt. Gen. Bernard Janvier, the UN commander in former Yugoslavia,

appeared to negate one received earlier at regional UN headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia, and signed by Nikola Koljevic, chief deputy of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Koljevic, in his brief letter, signaled "overall compliance" with UN demands, including pulling back the heavy weapons menacing the Bosnian capital, said UN officials.

Other demands were an immediate halt to attacks on Sarajevo and other UN "safe areas" and the complete freedom of movement for aid workers and UN personnel.

With Mladic, who has defied his political counterparts before, refusing to bow, the prospects of renewed massive airstrikes grew. Janvier and his staff were considering their response. A decision was expected within hours, said Chris Guinness, a UN spokesman, minutes before the deadline passed.

Asked how Mladic's letter reflected on the NATO deadline, UN spokeswoman Leah Melnick said: "It isn't a good sign."

The letter "did not sufficiently address the conditions put forth by Gen. Janvier, nor the conditions put forth by NATO," she said.

(Continued on Page 12)

Thieves holding Samaritan manuscripts for ransom

HAIM SHAPIRO

THIS story involves the theft of two sacred manuscripts, a tiny, but ancient religious community, an enormous ransom, and Yasser Arafat. If it were not a deep and personal tragedy for the world's less than 600 Samaritans, it would be the script of an adventure film.

It started in March, when members of the Samaritan community in Nablus came to their synagogue for morning prayers and found that two ancient Torah scrolls had been stolen. The police immediately opened an investigation, but in apparent recognition of which way the political winds were blowing, the community appealed to Arafat to help them recover their sacred writings.

Recently Arafat invited Samaritan High Priest Yosef Ben-Av-Hisda and Nablus Mayor Isan Shaka to come and hear important news about the manuscripts. Fully expecting they would get their treasures back, the Samaritans sent a large and distin-

guished delegation, including Deputy High Priest Levi Ben-Avisha; the Cohen Netanel Ben-Avraham, one of the cantors of the community; Peleg Altif, secretary of the Nablus Samaritan community; and Ratson Alif, a community leader.

When they arrived, however, it was only to hear that the thieves had reduced their ransom demand from \$6 million to \$2m.

"Thank God none of us go hungry, but we are not a wealthy community," Binyamin Tsedaka, editor of the Samaritan journal, AB, said yesterday.

According to Tsedaka, Arafat said that although he was in contact with the gang which stole the ancient manuscripts, he had no control over it.

Meanwhile, the saga took another dramatic turn when the Samaritans learned that the manuscripts had been smuggled across the border to a neighboring Arab

country. Tsedaka asked that the name of the country not be given, in fear that if it were, the government there could initiate a manhunt which might cause the thieves to destroy the sacred texts.

However, he did say that the thieves had smuggled an unnamed member of the Samaritan community across the border so that he could see for himself that the two manuscripts were intact.

Tsedaka said that the two works are both more than 700 years old. One is a scroll and the other a codex. He said that no monetary value can be put on such works, which are priceless for the members of the community, but noted that other Samaritan manuscripts from private collections have fetched hundreds of thousands of dollars at auction.

He also noted that even if the members of the community could come up with the kind of money demanded by the thieves, both

(Continued on Page 12)

Undivided Jerusalem is ours - Rabin

HELEN KAYE and BILL HUTMAN

SAYING firmly that "undivided Jerusalem is the heart of the Jewish people and the capital of the state of Israel," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ended the official opening of Jerusalem 3000 at the Knesset yesterday.

Some 1,600 guests heard Rabin declare himself a Jerusalemite, and that the overriding message of the city's 3,000-year history is one of "tolerance between religions, love between peoples, understanding between nations, and the penetrating awareness that there is no State of Israel without Jerusalem and no peace without Jerusalem undivided."

Earlier, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert had declared that the city's 3,000th birthday as the Jewish capital "is an opportunity to rise above politics and PR."

Until David came, he continued, "Jerusalem was an unimportant fortified town, but after him the city's name has resounded through the centuries." Jerusalem became the symbol of unity for the Jewish people and an expression of hope for the future.

"Except for a short period in recent history, Jerusalem was never divided and will never be divided again," he concluded.

Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss also spoke.

The guests included former president Chaim Herzog, former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kolek, ministers, diplomats, MKs, and churchmen. However, US Ambassador Martin Indyk sent a representative. According to Israel Radio, organizers were told that diplomatic protocol did not require the ambassador to attend a cultural event.

Prior to the Knesset ceremonies, the nation's leaders converged on the site of the ancient City of David, part of the village of Silwan, for its official opening as an archaeological park.

Hundreds of police and border policemen were deployed in the village, which has a reputation of being a hotbed of unrest, to keep the peace. Residents watched from their rooftops and windows as the leaders and their guests arrived.

There, too, Rabin declared that "Jerusalem is the heart of the Jewish people."

"We are opening our celebrations here, in the original City of David, to tell ourselves, and the entire world that our roots in this land predate Zionism, predate the Diaspora, and even predate the Holy Temples," Olmert said.

As the ceremony ended, Palestinians launched green, red, and white balloons, and a large PLO flag held aloft by balloons.

All agree that First International Bank leads

Recent reports penned on the financial prowess of the First International Bank

First International Bank provides and manages funds top Globes 1994 ranking. Ahead of all other banks in terms of assets and profits, at both high and low risk. Globes, January 1995

"We have" annual fund survey: "Only one bank managed to outshine the other banks - the First International Bank. A review of the equity-oriented funds shows that their yield was far higher than those of other banks. Indeed, over the past five years, the First International Bank's largest share-oriented mutual fund Mor has provided the highest yield within the mutual fund sector - 217.1% or 26% in annual real terms." "Ha'aretz," 12/95

A report by Rating Securities of London on the Israeli capital market states: "The First International Bank is innovative and aggressive, strong loan and deposit growth should continue...one of the most profitable banks...with a balanced credit portfolio...FIBI is in the best position to weather the forthcoming structural changes in the banking sector." Mar 1995

Teachers choose First International Bank The advanced study fund managements of the Israel Teachers Federation and the Post-Elementary School Teachers Association have transferred the management of their funds to the First International Bank Group. The transfer involves a total of NIS 2.1 billion from 110,000 members accounts. Jul 95

A report on the Israeli banking system by Furman and Selig of New York states: "First International Bank is a stand-out versus other international banking comparisons, with operating margins of 38%, net margins of 17-18%, a dividend yield of 4.5%, plus excellent management and a conservative balance sheet and lending policy." January 1995

Bank of Israel staff choose the First International Bank Bank of Israel employees have chosen the First International Bank Group to manage their Mifal Hapais provident fund deposits. April 1995

YOU NEED AN INNOVATIVE BANK



Rabin and Peres tour Hebron

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres toured Hebron yesterday to get a close look at the security situation prior to reaching an agreement with the Palestinians on IDF redeployment in the city.

Hebron is one of four major issues holding up an interim autonomy agreement, the others being prisoners, water, and land management.

Peres and Rabin were accompanied by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran, OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir, and Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, the prime minister's military aide.

The group visited military installations, the roads in the area, and the Machpela Cave.

Noam Arnon, the leader of the Jewish settlement in the city, said the settlers did not know about the two-hour visit in advance.

Arnon added that the settlers were not asked to meet with the

delegation.

Rabin and Peres flew to Hebron by helicopter.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have not been able to reach agreement on redeployment in Hebron, with the Palestinians demanding that soldiers only man six Jewish compounds, and Israel demanding to keep troops in other parts of the city, as well as along access roads.

The main road through Hebron links the Jewish settlements in the Hebron Hills - including Beit Hagai, Omiel, Pnei Hever, and Beit Yotir - with Kiryat Arba.

Meanwhile, talk of either dividing Hebron or evacuating its Jewish residents has some Hebron settlers talking about massive resistance, and others warning of unprecedented violence.

"If the government decides to uproot the Jews, thousands of

HERB KEINON

Jews from all over the country will come and help defend us," said Arnon. "They will defend us with all their strength."

He would not spell out exactly what this means, but said, "the Jewish people will not let the government destroy Hebron."

He said it is impossible to divide the city, and have the IDF stationed only in the Jewish sections.

"You need access to a wide area and to the roads," he said.

"If a soldier is sitting in one house, a terrorist can shoot at him from a home across the road. It won't work," he said.

Responding to recent statements by Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer that Hebron's Jews should be removed, Arnon said that by advocating the eviction of people based on their "race or religion," Ben-Eliezer is giving approval to the eviction of

Arabs.

"This is not a one way street," he said. "If you can evict Jews because they are Jews, you can evict Arabs because they are Arabs. He should not be surprised when under the next government someone uses his argument to justify evicting Arabs."

Baruch Marzel, former head of Kach and a resident of Tel Rumeida in Hebron, said attempts to evict the Jews or divide the city would lead to violence between Jews and Arabs that "would make everyone forget Baruch Goldstein."

"I know the Jews here, and I know the Arabs," Marzel said. "There would be unprecedented bloodshed."

At least one Hebron Jewish resident said he hopes the government goes through with plans either to divide the city or evict the settlers, saying this would create a level of violence that would put an end to the peace process.

Peres: I hope to resolve issues when I meet Arafat this week

Jerusalem Post Staff

"THERE are still 18 subjects on which we have yet to reach agreement with the Palestinians and which are holding up an Oslo 2 accord," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was quoted as telling the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Among those differences, many of which are marginal, he said there are three or four important matters, such as the release of security prisoners, the future of the Jewish community in Hebron, the holy places, and elections for a Palestinian self-rule authority.

Peres said there is a good chance some of these differences can be resolved when he meets later in the week with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Taba, then finalized in the Eilat talks.

The session was particularly stormy, even though there

were fewer committee members than usual in attendance.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu ripped into Peres. "There certainly is a new Middle East," he said, "but the PLO controls it. Look at the fear throughout the country at the opening of the school year because of parents' concern at the security situation in the schools."

He then slammed the government for transferring NIS 58 million to the PA as a return of value-added taxes paid by Palestinians, and said that over the next five years, Israel will have to return NIS 250m. This, he stressed, at a time when there is no money for school security.

He accused Peres of being more concerned with the PLO's interests.

"I worry more about Isra-

el's interests than you do," Peres responded. "The money we are returning is money we collected from them. Their tax collection is going better than we expected."

Peres also had a bitter exchange with the Likud's Ze'ev Begin, who called him "the PLO's lawyer."

Founding his briefcase on the table, Peres shouted back: "I'm the lawyer for the Jewish people. For two years, you have been trying to block the peace process. You're the lawyer for those who want to destroy the peace, and you're certainly the lawyer for Hamas."

There was also a shouting match between Ariel Sharon (Likud) and Ron Cohen (Meretz), with Sharon calling Cohen "a servant of the Arabs," and Cohen calling Sharon "one of those who gave birth to terrorism."

PM convenes crucial meeting on Hebron

ALON PINKAS

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran is expected to reiterate his reservations over security in Hebron in the context of the impending Israeli-Palestinian agreement at a high-level meeting scheduled for Thursday in the Prime Minister's Office.

Diplomatic sources confirmed last night that Rabin called the meeting in a last ditch effort to find a viable solution for IDF redeployment in the city, when Palestinian self-rule is extended to the West Bank.

Hebron remains a contentious issue impeding conclusion of an agreement. Israeli offers have been so far not only met with Palestinian opposition, but perhaps more emphatically with harsh reservations from Biran.

Biran has depicted the agreement over Hebron as untenable and has said that the IDF must either remain deployed in the entire Hebron area, or the Jewish residents of the city must be relocated to neighboring Kiryat Arba.

He maintains that coexistence between militant settlers in Tel Rumeida and Beit Romano and the Palestinian population is unrealistic, and that the army would not be able to prevent friction that would

inevitably lead to violence.

A source close to Biran said that he is so frustrated by the proposals that he actually considered telling Rabin he would not be responsible for their implementation unless they are reformulated. Biran especially objects to the division of security between the IDF and the Palestinian Police, and has argued that partial redeployment in the heart of Hebron would make it impossible to provide security for both Jews and Palestinians.

"Biran has said privately that he plans to retire by year's end after being passed over for OC Intelligence," one source said. "I doubt he will resign over the agreement, because many of his reservations were taken very seriously by Rabin, with the support of Chief of General Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak."

But if he thinks Israel's Hebron proposal is still untenable after Thursday's meeting, it is likely that Biran will consider early retirement.

The IDF Spokesman last night issued a denial of a Channel 2 news report which stated Biran intended to resign.

11 PA offices said operating in Jerusalem

Jerusalem Post Staff

ELEVEN Palestinian Authority institutions have been operating in Jerusalem recently, in violation of the Oslo accord, according to Peace Watch, an independent organization established to monitor its implementation.

Peace Watch officials said yesterday that this is up from the seven institutions operating six months ago. The 11 include the three institutions which have pledged to cut ties with the PA.

"According to Article 5 of Annex II to the Declaration of Principles, as well as Article III (6) of the Cairo Agreement, the offices of the PA must be located only in Gaza or Jericho, pending the inauguration of the elected Palestinian Council. Thus the presence of PA institutions in Jerusalem constitutes a violation of the agreements," Peace Watch officials said.

Noting the secret letter sent by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to the late Norwegian foreign minister Johan Jorgen Holst on October 11 1993 - the eve of the signing of the DOP - promising that Israel would encourage the continued existence of Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem, Peace Watch's legal adviser nonetheless concluded that pre-existing Palestinian institutions in the city which have become PA

offices violate the prohibition.

Peace Watch's legal adviser said Peres had himself explained to the group that his letter deals with municipal institutions serving the Arab population of Jerusalem, not political or government bodies.

The legal adviser added that "relevant clauses in the DOP and Gaza-Jericho Agreement on the prohibition of the location of PA offices outside of Jericho and Gaza, being an integral part of the public and mutual commitments undertaken by Israel and the PLO, take precedence over Peres's letter, which was a unilateral undertaking sent in secret to a third party outside of the framework of the Israel-PLO agreements."

The 11 institutions are the Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs; Palestinian Energy Center; Office of the Mufti of Jerusalem; Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction; Orient House; Municipal Council of East Jerusalem; Palestinian Institute for the Wounded; Palestinian Housing Council; Palestinian Bureau of Statistics; Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation; and the Palestinian Health Council.

In its report, Peace Watch outlined the connections between the various institutions and the PA.

The Municipal Council of East Jerusalem, the report noted, for example, is the East Jerusalem Municipal Council, which had been subordinate to Jordan prior to the Six-Day War, as reconstituted under orders given by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in early June. The PA funded the resumption of its activities.

The council is directly subordinate to the PA, according to its head, Dr. Amin Majaj, and is reportedly providing residents of Jerusalem with some municipal services, although Peace Watch said it has no independent confirmation of this.

The Palestinian Housing Council is already offering mortgages of \$10,000-\$30,000 to Arab residents of Jerusalem, out of its total mortgage budget of \$2.5 million sponsored by the PA, Peace Watch said.

Among criteria used by Peace Watch to link the institutions to the PA were the role of the institution and its activities; where its funding comes from; whether its functionaries have official PA positions; and external signs appearing in the institution's offices or on printed material.

Hanegbi: Rabin held 46 polls at taxpayers' expense

SARAH HONG

LIKUD MK Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday published a list of 46 public opinion polls conducted by the Prime Minister's Office which he says are really political surveys that cost taxpayers NIS 1 million.

Hanegbi received the list from the PM's office several months ago by order of the High Court of Justice. He petitioned the court to put an end to the polling and, despite the government's objections, the court ordered that the full list be turned over to him.

The list, Hanegbi told *The Jerusalem Post* last night, "more than bears out my initial contention about the blatantly political nature of the polling."

Hanegbi said the polls examined such issues as the prime minister's image after certain media appearances, or what the public thinks about the co-opting of various parties to the coalition.

Hanegbi, who served as former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir's bureau chief, argues that he knows "from close personal knowledge that such polls were never conducted in the Shamir administration, nor in any previous administration. In fact, the Likud governments never conducted polls at all. To make matters worse, the Rabin government hired the Labor Party's pollster Kalman Gayer as a civil servant at quite a high salary to conduct these polls."

Former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Shimon Sheves, however, claims that "these polls are totally on the up-and-up. There is nothing whatever the matter with them. They are conducted because this government is sensitive to what the public thinks. It cares."

Hanegbi retorted that "we care about public funds being grossly misused. The High Court is to rule on my petition in a few weeks and I ask that Labor restore the funds to the state treasury, and pay for its polls out of its political funding allotments."

Hanegbi explained that he only released his list now because "I had been asked by the government to give them time on the grounds that they expected policy to change due to Sheves leaving his office. Since what I wanted was for the polls to cease, I agreed to hold off. However, when months passed and the previous practices continued, I decided to make the list public."



Ilan Eliyahu, 19, one of three border policemen suspected of robbing and shooting a Palestinian jeweler near Hebron waits in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday. The border policemen were remanded for six days. (Brian Hender)

Tensions erupt between Hamas and PA

JON IMMANUEL

HAMAS yesterday accused one of its members of being an Israeli agent planted among them with the aim of assassinating senior Palestinian officials.

Hamas accused Walid Hamdiyah of being a GSS agent. Hamdiyah, known as a street leader from the Shajaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City, is currently under arrest by the Palestinian security police.

The Hamas charge, in a leaflet issued in Gaza, came after Palestinian police found a hit list of Palestinian Authority officials as well as weapons when they arrested a group of Hamas members last week. Hamdiyah may have been one of those arrested during the raid.

The Palestinian Police said one of those arrested was on his way to blow himself up at Jerusalem's Central Bus Station.

The police findings and the Hamas charges could create serious new tension between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, unless the police take seriously the charges of Israeli collusion in the assassination of Palestinian officials.

Hamas had long ago promised

not to attack Palestinian officials. By shifting the blame for an apparent series of assassinations to a purported Israeli agent from the ranks of Hamas appears to be a desperate bid to save face.

Khaled Amayreh, a pro-Hamas Hebron journalist, said Hamdiyah was one of several deportees among the 415 expelled to South Lebanon in December 1992 considered as planted Israeli agents.

Hamdiyah reportedly "confessed" to being an Israeli agent who helped the General Security Service track down Imad Akel, a leading Izzadun Kassam gunman, who was ambushed and killed early last year.

Attempts to restart a PA-Hamas dialogue were abandoned in July after a new outbreak of Hamas violence starting with an attempted bombing in Netzarim, the Ramat Gan bus bombing and finally the Jerusalem bus bombing.

Yesterday, the Associated Press reported receiving a fax from Hamas saying "Reassessment, reevaluation and rear-

management of priorities have become an urgent national duty - to set up a new strategy for dealing with events in accordance with overriding Palestinian interests." It did not say whether Hamas should make the reassessment, the PA should change or that both should meet somewhere in the middle.

"It is too early to decide that, but many elements in Hamas want to see what political role if any they can play as Oslo 2 approaches," said Amayreh.

While the political wing of Hamas long ago agreed that there should be no violence in areas under Palestinian authority, the PA has now demanded that Hamas end violence not only in Gaza but everywhere, a demand which it has been difficult for Hamas to accept on principle.

Hamas sources however have attempted to overlap the violence issue with talk of reconciliation or rapprochement. This week some of its well-known leaders have spoken of a gap between the "political" and "military" wings of Hamas, saying that Kassam gets its orders directly from abroad.

Five months for not paying taxes

A STORE owner who evaded taxes for four years was given a five-month prison sentence and fined NIS 25,000 by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Ehud Kamin refused to pay taxes from 1990-1993 for ideological reasons on the NIS 304,840 in income he earned from his jewelry, gift and toy store. *lum*

CORRECTION

The summer camp attended by Palestinian girls in Gaza was sponsored by Interus for Peace and not as stated in a photo caption in Thursday's paper.

Man dies in collision

A TRUCK and a car collided at the entrance to Rahat yesterday, and the car's driver, Sheikh Juma Janda, 61, was killed. Police said the truck was driving on the main road, and hit the left side of Janda's car.

In Ramat Gan, 26 people were lightly injured when two buses collided at 6:35 a.m.

Thirty-two people were injured - nine of them moderately - near Anatot, on the Jerusalem-Mishor Adumim Road, when a Jordan-bound bus with passengers from the Gaza Strip lost its brakes and hit an oncoming car. *(lum)*

Judea, Samaria schools left unguarded

JACOB DALLAL and STEVE RODAN

SCHOOLS in Judea and Samaria have been left unprotected because of a dispute between police and the IDF over who is responsible for guarding educational institutions in the territories.

In the Binyamin region, schools did not have any guards, with parents fearing for their children's safety.

The police spokesman for the Judea and Samaria region said the police are not responsible for guarding schools in the territories.

"From the police point of view the same [private] guards that were in place last year, also apply for this year. The IDF is responsible for security in the area," the spokesman said, suggesting to ask the army.

The IDF spokesman said that it had been decided at a meeting on the matter a week ago, attended by the security officer of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, that Judea and Samaria district police would be responsible for providing security "at least at the same level as last year."

Gulf states expected at Amman summit

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THERE are signs of an upswing in the participation by Persian Gulf countries in the upcoming Middle East economic summit in Amman. This is due to Jordan's potential rapprochement with the Gulf states, a conference organizer told a press conference yesterday.

While careful not to be drawn into regional political issues, Gregory Blatt, of the Geneva-based World Economic Council, who is organizing the Amman parley on October 29-31 said, "We are getting very positive signs from the Gulf, perhaps due to Jordan's new profile."

He voiced confidence that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would be represented, along with the other four Gulf states that have tended to be more willing to attend events in which Israel participates.

Blatt noted that Jordanian Foreign Minister Karim Abdul Karim has made various trips to all Gulf states in a bid to obtain optimal participation.

The World Economic Council, which was also behind last year's Casablanca regional business conference, is dedicated to the idea of bringing together governmental and business leaders to work together for economic

growth. Every year it sponsors an international parley in Davos, Switzerland, which it sees as the model for the conference in Amman.

Blatt said he expects 60 countries to send at least their trade ministers to Amman, and believes 700 companies would be in attendance. "We expect half to come from the region, and the other half to come from outside the region," he said.

Syria and Lebanon are widely expected to boycott the conference, as they did in Casablanca, as a signal that there can be no normalization with Israel until territorial issues are resolved.

Blatt suggested that all parties have learned from the Casablanca experience, where Arabs mistook the big Israeli delegation

not as a sign of enthusiasm for regional economic cooperation, but as signaling a desire for economic control.

In keeping with this theme, Economics Minister Yossi Beilin, who is coordinating the Israeli delegation, promised Blatt earlier this week that Israel will not send more than 100 people to Amman. Sixty of them will be businessmen, the remainder from government.

While there has been concern that Egypt may seek to signal displeasure by sending a low-ranking delegation, Blatt sounded confident. "We have been told that Egyptian Foreign Minister [Amr Mousa] will be in attendance," he said.

Blatt said that Egypt is "one of the countries that seeks to host next year's parley. The other contenders are Tunisia and Oman."

We sorrowfully announce the passing of our beloved

KETE ELKELES

The funeral will take place on Tuesday, September 5, 1995, at 11:00 a.m. at the Sanhedria Funeral Parlor leaving for Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.

Her son, Gad Ehrlich
Family and Friends

We deeply mourn the untimely death of our beloved brother and uncle

MARK LITWIN

Gary Litwin and family
Lynn Michaelson and family

Chernobyl in Judea

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Police probe surgery scam

RAINE MARCUS

A SENIOR heart surgeon at Patah Tikva's Beilinson Hospital has been arrested for allegedly demanding money from patients. Under questioning, the surgeon denied telling patients that he would personally operate in return for a large sum of money. But detectives said that they have evidence to prove that the surgeon demanded money from at least two families.

In one case a 70-year-old woman needed a heart operation. The surgeon allegedly told her family that he would personally perform the operation for a fee.

The family of a three-old-boy also complained that the surgeon, a department head, offered to perform surgery for a price.

Patients' families, said police, trusted his experience and reputation and preferred to pay thousands of dollars rather than to trust their loved ones to junior doctors.

"There's no need to worry, there are other, junior doctors who can do the operation if you can't pay," the surgeon reportedly told one family.

Now police believe that they may have uncovered the tip of an iceberg, and are appealing to patients who were offered treatment by senior doctors in return for payment to come forward.



Moshe Ya'acov Shafir, 59, of Jerusalem, suspected of stabbing an Arab at the Haas Promenade on Saturday, arrives at Jerusalem Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

Namir invites Jordanian princess to visit

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir yesterday invited Jordan's Princess Basma, King Hussein's daughter, to visit Israel, her spokesman announced. Namir, who heads the Israeli delegation to the UN Conference on Women, met Basma in her hotel suite.

Basma, head of the Jordanian delegation, accepted the invitation warmly and spoke in support of the peace process. She assured Namir of the Jordanian people's wholehearted support for the process.

During the meeting, which was described as cordial and friendly, the two also discussed a visit of a delegation of Jordanian women to Israel to study issues pertaining to labor and social affairs.

After the official opening of the conference, Namir attended a festive dinner sponsored by the prime minister of China for the 185 delegation heads.

Behind the festivities, conflict is raging between the conservative delegations and those from democratic, Western states, over the final conference resolutions on abortion, contraception and statements on equal rights.

Israeli sources noted that the conservative delegates are pressing, in one resolution proposal, to replace the term "equal rights" in marriage with the more non-committal "fair relations."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Grenade put on official's car

Meir Amar, the head of the Lachish Regional Council, found a stun grenade attached to his car yesterday morning.

Amar found the grenade attached to the exhaust pipe as he left the council's office in Moshav Nehora at about 8:30 a.m. He called police, and a sapper removed the grenade.

He said he had no idea who placed the grenade, but said shots had previously been fired at him and his tires slashed. He attributed this to his fight against corruption.

Driver fined for not checking bus

The Tel Aviv Traffic Court yesterday issued bus company driver David Ben-Yehonatan a NIS 2,000 fine and a three-month suspended sentence over two years for not doing a security check of his bus before taking on passengers.

The incident occurred on July 10 at the Dan station in north Tel Aviv. Police sappers watched Ben-Yehonatan as part of a campaign to check drivers' security awareness.

Weizman cancels trip to US

President Ezer Weizman has decided to postpone his visit to Washington, planned for November, sources in Washington said yesterday. This is the second time the president has put off his trip to the US capital.

The reason was said to be the large number of visits by Israeli leaders to the US at that time of the year. Following last month's bus bomb in Jerusalem, Weizman canceled a planned visit to Germany and the Czech Republic, saying the political situation did not warrant his traveling abroad.

A spokesperson for Beit Hanassi said the decision was not linked to the eye infection that made Weizman cancel his participation yesterday in the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations.

Burglar freezes dog to shut it up

An Ashdod man, convicted of burglary and of putting the dog he found in the apartment he was robbing into the freezer, was sentenced yesterday to a year in prison and 18 months suspended by Ashdod Magistrate's Court.

According to the indictment, David Cohen, 22, stole a car last September, drove to an apartment in the town, forced open a window, and started looking for valuables. The family dog, however, started to bark loudly and to nip at his heels, so he picked it up and put in the freezer section of the refrigerator. He then stole a VCR and several other items, loaded them in the stolen car, and drove off.

Eilat man, ship's captain, recovered from 'Mineral Dampier'

DAVID RUDGE

ONE of the bodies recovered recently from the wreck of the *Mineral Dampier* has been positively identified as that of the ship's captain Philippe Eyron, it was announced yesterday.

The body of Eyron, 53, of Eilat, is expected to be flown back to Israel on Thursday. Transport Minister Yisrael Kessur expressed his condolences to Eyron's family.

Transport Ministry spokesman Eli Dahan said all the necessary arrangements were being made in South Korea, through the ports authority and the Israeli Embas-

sy, to have the body flown home as quickly as possible.

Divers found the body of Eyron and that of another seaman from the ill-fated vessel last week following the resumption of search operations after a two-week respite.

The bodies were brought ashore to South Korea, over 160 kilometers from the site in the East China Sea where the craft sank in June after being struck in thick fog by a South Korean vessel.

An Israeli police officer in South Korea identified Eyron through personal items, including a gold medallion he wore around his neck and his watch.

The other body is not that of one of the Israeli crew, but either a Filipino or Romanian seaman.

A few days ago, divers discovered another body covered in debris inside the wreck of the *Mineral Dampier*.

They have so far been unable to recover the body or identify it because it is trapped under a met-

al girder and other debris.

There were 27 crew members aboard the *Mineral Dampier* who all went missing after it sank, nine of them Israelis, 10 Filipinos, five Romanians and three Belgians.

Seven bodies - four of them Israelis, including Eyron - have been recovered from the sea and the wreck itself during the search and rescue operations.

Eyron was well known to residents of Eilat where he was port pilot for 21 years. He was also a member of the town council.

He leaves a wife and four children.

Live liver and lung donations approved

New regulations will give hope to dozens

JUDY SIEGEL

ISRAELIS will now be permitted to donate a lobe of their lungs to a patient who needs a transplant. In addition, a parent will be allowed to donate part of his liver to his children who are under 12. These procedures were approved by the Supreme Helsinki Committee on Human Experimentation.

The panel was convened Sunday night by Health Ministry Director-General Dr. Meir Oren.

Kidney donations from a live donor have been allowed for many years.

Recent successes in transplanting parts of organs from live donors led to discussions of the issue. A number of Israelis have

gone abroad to have such operations performed.

Some 500 operations have been successfully carried out abroad in which a living relative has donated a part of his liver to a child.

Oren appointed a small team from among the Helsinki committee to set criteria and conditions for such donations, including informed consent by the donor.

As for transplants involving a lobe of liver donated by a live donor for an adult recipient, Oren decided to delay deciding on this matter because it is as yet

only experimental, with just 25 such operations carried out abroad so far, and not all of them successful.

In exceptional cases involving a lobe of liver needed by an adult recipient from a live donor, the committee (comprising physicians, medical ethicists and religious leaders) will meet to discuss them.

Last June, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh asked the committee to meet urgently and approve live-donor organ transplantation, especially for cystic fibrosis patients needing a lobe of a lung.

The new regulations, Sneh said yesterday, will give hope to dozens of patients.

Testing of lice shampoos required; those that don't work to be barred

Manufacturers must do their own trials

JUDY SIEGEL

FOR the first time, the Health Ministry is requiring clinical tests on anti-head lice preparations to prove their effectiveness, and those that fail the test will be barred from sale. *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

However, the ministry has not commissioned an independent expert to perform the trials, but merely required the manufacturers themselves to test their own products.

Head lice become resistant to pesticides after several years of use, with stronger ones who survive the chemicals breeding new generations unaffected by them.

Dr. Kosta Mumcuoglu, a parasitologist at the Hebrew University medical school and one of the country's leading experts on pediculosis, argues that some anti-lice preparations have been allowed by the ministry to be marketed even though they have been useless for decades. As a result, parents who use them to rid their children of head lice think they have done a good job,

but the youngsters continue to be infested and to infest classmates.

The ministry confirmed that on the eve of the new school year, it sent letters to manufacturers of all anti-lice shampoos, sprays, creams and lotions and instructed them to conduct clinical studies over the coming year. Their detailed reports will then be studied by the ministry, which will decide whether to allow their sale. Until now, any product that was not dangerous has received a license.

Mumcuoglu has demanded that the ministry remove preparations based on permethrin from the shelves because it is "no longer effective," a declaration he bases on tests of head lice he has removed from the heads of thousands of children in kindergartens and schools.

Among the chemicals that he says are currently effective against head lice are carbaryl (as in Haff Hadash, Carbaryl of Fischer Labs) and malathion (as in

Prioderm and Monocyte Lotion).

However, parents should know that lice eggs hatch within nine or 10 days after they are laid, so Prioderm's instructions to use the preparation again after three days and then six days will not get good results, says Mumcuoglu, who advises all the companies but does not work for any of them. Also effective are sprays such as Ricide or Kin-X, based on pyrethrum (a derivative of chrysanthemum), but they must be applied in an aired room and close to the child's scalp.

The parasitologist says that parents can effectively get rid of lice by combing children's hair with a fine-toothed metal comb daily for 10 days - without using any chemicals.

The combing breaks the parasites' legs and make it impossible for them to feed on blood from the scalp.

But unless hair conditioner is applied, and if the hair is very long or curly, few children will sit still for such "torture."

48 wedding guests still hospitalized from gas fumes

FORTY-EIGHT people remained in Holon's Wolfson Hospital yesterday after inhaling gas which leaked into a Bat Yam hall.

The hospitalized, who were celebrating a wedding on Sunday night when the inhalation occurred, included eleven children.

The condition of all the victims was described as good, and they were being kept under supervi-

sion until it was finally determined what the gas that had overcome them was.

Once this has been determined, doctors will know if they suffered any real damage, with what medication to treat them, and whether they can be sent home.

The Environment Ministry's Poison Treatment Unit will only

be able to definitively determine what the gas was after it receives further data and a report from the Fire Department's air-conditioning engineer, who is also investigating the occurrence.

The ministry believes that the gas was carbon dioxide.

But there is as yet no explanation for how the gas got into the wedding hall. (Itm)

Shahal visits Neveh Tirza's new wing and urges stress on rehabilitation

RAINE MARCUS

That is "inconceivable," Shahal said.

Shahal regretted that local councils are still reluctant to have prisons in their areas and urged the general public to change their attitude and help those released.

"We cannot ignore released prisoners, and society should help them," he said.

Michal Mor, 26, a recovering addict, nervously told a packed hall how she had started taking drugs when she was 17 after she married a violent criminal.

"I was brought up by my grandmother," she said. "So when I met my husband, I

thought I had found warmth. But instead he beat me and I started taking drugs to forget the pain."

Mor, serving a prison sentence for drug offenses, said the Prisons Service rehabilitation program has given her new hope.

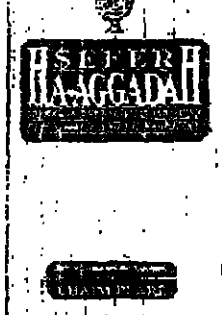
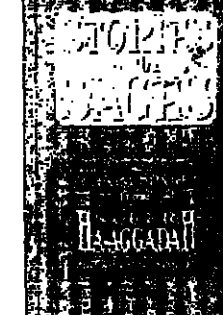
Neveh Tirza warder Geula Haral, who left her position yesterday after three years, said that when she arrived, the prison was intended "to guard inmates," but that her "mission" had been to help them.

Said one prisoner: "After 14 years of being addicted to drugs, she was the first person to treat me like a human being and gave me the confidence that I could stop taking drugs - even in here."

Mr. Arafat, don't touch Jerusalem, you will burn your hands! Ulrich Hartmann

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Dry Alaska town works up a thirst

BARROW, Alaska (AP) — In the 10 months since voters in America's northernmost town decided to ban booze, calls to police have dropped off and emergency room doctors have become accustomed to sleeping through the night.

But for prohibition opponents, it's been nearly a year without the freedom to enjoy a cocktail at home.

And with another petition pending, Barrow could be tipping again in November, before the sun disappears for the winter.

About 700 residents — more than voted against the ban last year — have signed a petition calling for another vote as soon as October. The city clerk is expected to approve the ballot question this week.

At least 80 Alaska Native villages have gone dry since the 1980s. Others have gone "damp," meaning no bars or liquor stores but people can import alcohol to drink at home.

This old whaling village of 5,000 people and 39 percent non-Natives was one of those "damp" hubs until the October 1994 vote that narrowly banned alcohol outright.

The Barrow Freedom Committee is pushing to force a referendum to reverse the ban on alcohol.

"I believe we're going to have an overwhelming victory," said committee member Tom Nicolas, a 14-year resident.

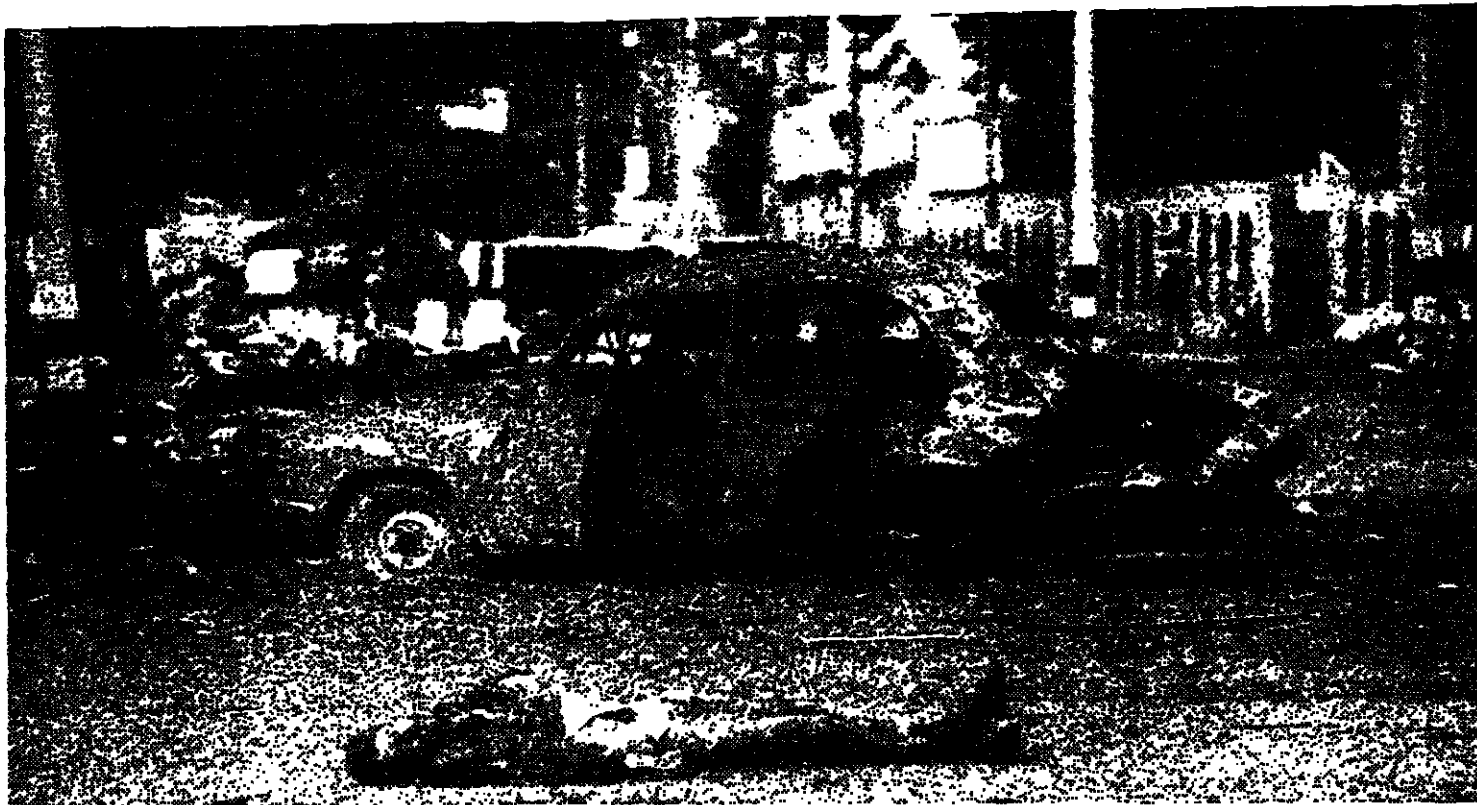
But dryness does have its benefits. The borough's public safety department says drunken driving arrests have dropped from 73 in the six months before prohibition to nine in the six months after.

Alcohol-related jailings dropped from 239 to 29 in the same period and alcohol-related emergency room visits dwindled 118 last October to 19 in July.

Barrow's disagreement over drinking reflects, in part, a division between whites and Inupiat Eskimos who have inhabited this outpost for centuries.

With the nearest place to buy booze at least 400 km south, drinkers pay dearly for the indulgence: A fifth of black-market vodka fetches about \$150.

The public safety department has seized about 450 bottles of liquor prohibition began Nov. 1, said department chief Dennis Packer. Most alcohol, police say, is smuggled in luggage at the city's airport.



The scene after yesterday's car bomb explosion in Srinagar.

Kashmiri separatist car bomb kills 13 in Srinagar

NELSON GRAVES
SRINAGAR, India

KASHMIR separatists detonated a car bomb in Srinagar yesterday, killing at least 13 people in an audacious attack in the center of the heavily fortified city.

The Hizbul Mujaheddin group claimed responsibility in a telephone call to a Western news agency and said the bomb was aimed at Indian soldiers outside a bank in the city center.

Witnesses said five of the dead appeared to be soldiers.

Officials at the government-run hospital where casualties were brought said 20 wounded were admitted, and three were in surgery. One died on arrival.

The bomb went off in a car near a police station and outside a branch of the government-owned State Bank of India, where Indian soldiers fighting the separatist insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir congregated at the beginning of every month to collect their pay.

A bomb placed on a scooter in almost exactly the same location in late 1992 killed two people and shopkeepers had been pressing authorities for payments to the soldiers to be made elsewhere.

The explosion was just down the road from Ahdoos, one of the only hotels left open in the city and packed full of foreign journalists covering the Kashmir hostage crisis, now in its third month.

Witnesses said there was an army truck parked in the area when the bomb went off at 1:30 p.m. Three cars and five scooters were destroyed.

The wheels had been blown off one car and the tin roofs of shops opposite were riddled with holes from the debris.

"I was going to buy food when I heard a huge explosion. The next thing I knew I was lying on the ground with injuries to my neck and stomach," hotel worker Ghulam Qadir Khan said at the hospital where he was being treated.

"It's only the poor like me who suffer," he said.

Witnesses saw 12 bodies after the blast, two of them women and five others dressed in military uniform. Some of the corpses were badly mutilated.

Security forces arrived quickly and carried off the bodies. Police cordoned off the area saying there could be another bomb.

The blast was preceded by a grenade explosion the guerrillas said was meant to warn civilians away from the car bomb.

Police and hospital sources say more than 20,000 people have been killed in the five-year insurgency by separatist militants in Jammu and Kashmir, predominantly Hindu India's only Moslem majority state.

An unusually large number of foreign journalists, Western diplomats and hostage crisis advisers are in Srinagar while negotiations continue to secure the release of four Western tourists held by guerrillas in the Kashmir Valley since early July.

Americans Donald Hutchings and John Childs and Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan were kidnapped by the Al-Faran group on July 4 while trekking in the Himalayan region.

Childs escaped after four days and Al-Faran abducted German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro. The Norwegian was found beheaded last month.

Al-Faran, previously unknown even to Kashmiri separatist groups, has threatened several times to kill all the hostages unless India frees at least 15 jailed militants, including three Pakistanis.

British, Irish ministers in crucial peace talks

DUBLIN (Reuters) — British and Irish government ministers held two hours of talks yesterday to pave the way for a summit they hope will end months of deadlock in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring and Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, met in Dublin at the start of a crucial week for Anglo-Irish efforts to convene all-party talks on a lasting political settlement.

The two ministers said their talks had helped prepare for tomorrow's summit but declined to give details.

The preparations for Wednesday's meeting are almost complete but we shall be working right up until the talks begin," Spring told reporters.

Mayhew, Britain's top political representative in Northern Ireland, then flew to Belfast for talks with Gerry Adams, president of the political wing of the IRA, Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein, which seeks to end British rule of Northern Ireland, fears that tomorrow's summit talks will signal no real change to British insistence that the Irish Republican Army disarm before Sinn Fein can be invited to all-party talks.

Adams said at the weekend that it would be folly for Britain to go "eyeball to eyeball" with guerrillas who fought British rule for 25 years and declared a ceasefire one year ago in the hope of getting Sinn Fein invited to new political talks.

Adams said there was no way the IRA would contemplate handing over weapons before Britain set a date for all-party talks and invited Sinn Fein and all other Northern Ireland political parties to attend them.

Sinn Fein and the Irish government hope a date for all-party talks can be arranged before President Bill Clinton tours Ireland and Northern Ireland in late November to set the seal on US support for the peace process.

But Britain says no political group can come to the conference table so long as it has an army of supporters still in possession of weapons it might use to resume its war at any time the discussions founder.

Irish officials say that British Prime Minister John Major and his Irish counterpart, John Bru-

ton, will establish an international commission tomorrow to oversee the surrender of IRA and Protestant Loyalist weapons.

But Adams has made clear there will be no point in establishing such a body if its brief is to take IRA arms out of service before all-party talks are launched.

George Mitchell, a former US senator who heads Clinton's Ireland Economy advisory team, is expected to head the commission and involve Washington directly in the peace process for the first time.

Sources close to the peace process said the Dublin government believes that a commitment by the IRA not to use its arsenal first or for any reason other than self-defense might help break the logjam.

Protestant Loyalist gunmen, who fought for 25 years to keep Northern Ireland British, made a similar pledge this month and have called on their IRA rivals to do likewise.

The rival guerrillas called ceasefires last year which have led to 12 months of rare peace but little real progress towards reconciling Protestant determination to keep Northern Ireland British and Catholic dreams of a re-united Ireland. R

Bush makes landmark visit to Vietnam

HANOI (AP) — In a further sign of improving ties between old enemies, former US President George Bush arrived yesterday for an historic — if unofficial — visit to Vietnam.

Bush will become the first American ex-president to meet with Vietnam's Communist leaders since the Vietnam War ended in defeat for US ally South Vietnam in 1975. Bush's private visit comes less than one month after the United States and Vietnam opened embassies in each others' capitals.

No serving US president has met so far with Vietnam's leaders.

US officials have played down Bush's four-day trip, but the Vietnamese are preparing to welcome Bush as a state guest. He is to meet separately today with President Le Duc Anh at Hanoi's presidential palace and with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at his office, known locally as the White House.

"We're not expecting any ceremony," Bush's chief of staff, Jean Becker, said. "It's going to be pretty low-key."

Some Vietnam War veterans, Republican congressmen and Vietnamese-Americans have objected to Bush's planned visit. They say it amounts to an undeserved gesture of approval for a Communist regime that violates human rights and still isn't doing enough to help resolve the fate of 1,615 US servicemen missing here from the war.

Last week Bush made a late change in his schedule to travel to a site near Da Nang, in central Vietnam, where investigators are digging for the remains of at least one missing American. Becker denied that Bush decided to visit the MIA site in response to the negative publicity surrounding his trip to Vietnam.

"It's just an issue that he's always been concerned about," she said.

Vietnam is eager to broaden ties with the United States, especially in trade and investment. Bush is traveling here to give two speeches in a lecture series sponsored by Citibank, the first US bank to open a branch in Vietnam. Becker refused to say how much he is being paid.

Bush's visit comes at a crucial time, as "the two sides are looking forward to improving relations rather than looking to the past," said Nguyen Ngoc Truong, editor-in-chief of the Foreign Ministry newspaper World Affairs Weekly.

Bush, a Texas Republican, was instrumental in ending 17 years of postwar estrangement between the United States and Vietnam. In 1992, just before leaving office, he allowed US companies to open offices and hire staff here for the first time since the war. That began a warming of ties that led to President Clinton's removal of a US economic embargo in February 1994 and the establishment of diplomatic relations this July.

Clinton said he established relations because Vietnam had shown strong cooperation on the MIA issue. Some Republican congressmen disagreed and have threatened to withhold funding for the new US embassy.

EU economist blasts monetary union

LONDON (Reuters) — A top European Commission economist touched off a furore yesterday by denouncing European Union plans to create a single currency as a "confidence trick" that would increase economic instability in the bloc.

The EU Commission in Brussels immediately warned that the economist was under investigation for publishing his dissenting opinion and might even lose his job as head of an influential unit responsible for economic and monetary affairs.

Bernard Connolly's book containing his forthright views is not due to be published until September 18.

But in the first part of a serialization in The Times newspaper, Connolly accused French and German officials of agreeing a "sweetheart deal" three years ago that committed the German central bank to give unlimited support to the French franc but not to other currencies under speculative attack.

The September 1992 deal led to the pound being forced out of the European Union's semi-fixed exchange rate mechanism, wrote Connolly, who The Times said

had attended meetings of the monetary committee where key decisions about the ERM are taken.

British Prime Minister John Major had been enjoying a political honeymoon after his unexpected general election victory five months earlier until the ERM crisis dealt a body blow to the credibility of his government's economic policy.

In a front-page article previewing the rest of the book, The Times said: "Connolly says that a move to full-scale monetary union would trigger an open struggle between France and Germany for the mastery of Europe and could ultimately lead to war."

Connolly's book is likely to provide plenty of ammunition for anti-Europeans in Major's Conservative Party.

Major won a battle in July for the leadership of the ruling Conservatives after facing down his Euro-sceptic critics in his party who want a tougher line against European integration. But the sniping is expected to resume after the summer recess.

Antidepressant gives patients surprise bonus

LONDON (Reuters) — An anti-depressant drug is giving patients an uplifting bonus — when they yawn, they have an orgasm.

And some patients who are over their depression have asked doctors to be allowed to go on taking the clomipramine tablets because of the side-effect, British newspapers reported yesterday.

The newspapers quoted a scientific study published in the latest edition of New Scientist magazine.

"One woman, better after being depressed for three months, wanted to keep taking the tablets. She even found she could experience an orgasm by deliberately yawning," the New Scientist report said.

The discovery could herald a new era in sexual relationships, the magazine suggested.

"People who experience it would presumably actively seek out the most boring person they could find at parties," it said.

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

France slams nuclear critics

PAPEETE, Tahiti (AP) — As France prepared to set off an underground nuclear test yesterday, French officials lashed back at what they called interference in domestic affairs by foreign politicians protesting in the region.

In Paris Jacques Cousteau pleaded with President Jacques Chirac to scratch the testing in French Polynesia. The popular ocean explorer said it "shows the power of the nuclear lobby."

Rumors continued to fly over when France would set off the first of seven or eight tests planned between September and the end of May under the Mururoa or Fangataua atolls 1,200 km southeast of Papeete.

Greenpeace, waging a war of nerves with France by vowing to send another protest ship into the atoll, said the blast would take place yesterday. Other sources suggested it would take place later in the week, but French authorities have refused to give a date.

Chirac has faced outcry by governments and anti-nuclear activists around the world since June, when the conservative president announced the tests aimed at updating France's nuclear arsenal and developing test technology.

French military on Sunday seized a third protest vessel off Mururoa after it violated the 22-km territorial zone, where a protest flotilla of about 10 boats cruised the periphery.

The French yacht Kudu was taken into custody after it crossed into zone four times despite warnings to leave the area, said Vice-Adm. Philippe Evuete, military commander in French Polynesia.

Other boats in the flotilla claimed the Kudu had sailed to Mururoa after running out of drinking water.

The Kudu's seizure follows that of two Greenpeace ships for incursions into the zone Friday — the Rainbow Warrior II and the MV Greenpeace.

French frigates and helicopters continued shadowing the protest flotilla, Greenpeace said.

Solemn services mark VJ Day

HONOLULU (AP) — Paying a final tribute to America's aging war veterans, President Clinton attended solemn religious services in a prayerful search for lessons of "the tragedy of World War II."

In surprisingly brief remarks capping VJ Day commemorations, Clinton said historians looking back centuries from now will say the war showed that people will reject repression and prejudice to fight for freedom.

"I believe the lesson will be that people, when given a choice, will not choose to live under empire; that citizens, when given a choice, will not choose to live under dictators; that people, when given the opportunity to let the better angels of their natures rise to the top, will not embrace theories of political or racial or ethnic or religious superiority," he said.

On a day filled with hymns and hallelujahs, Clinton spoke for less than five minutes — allowing the poignant words of veterans to resonate.

The president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton parted after the services. Clinton headed to California for a two-day trip. Mrs. Clinton left for China, where she will address an international women's conference.

Filipino villages buried in mud

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (AP) — Fast-rising floods and mudflows caused by tropical storm "Nina" struck several towns in the northern Philippines early yesterday, forcing thousands of residents to flee their homes.

A woman and her two brothers earlier reported missing, and feared dead were found safe.

The three had been separated from the other members of their family in Bacolor town as they scrambled to escape oncoming volcanic debris loosened by the storm, according to Emma Tabalanza, spokeswoman of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council.

Nonstop rains brought by the storm swamped 35 villages of Pampanga with floods of up to three meters deep.

Miscalculation put Mladic in NATO sights

JONATHAN CLAYTON
BRUSSELS

BOSNIAN Serb commander General Ratko Mladic has found himself firmly fixed in NATO's sights since he miscalculated Western leaders' resolve after the fall of two UN "safe havens" this summer, alliance diplomats say.

Senior NATO diplomats say the Bosnian Serbs' overrunning of Srebrenica and Zepa in July, along with subsequent reports of atrocities against civilians and Bosnian Muslim army troops, were "one humiliation too many."

The US, backed by the leading European allies, decided it had to act to restore the much-damaged credibility of both the alliance and the United Nations. "The stakes were high. There

was a feeling we just could not let the alliance continue to be damaged like this," said a NATO diplomat.

After months of taunting by Bosnian Serbs, the alliance quietly agreed a detailed plan of how to react to any further Serb attacks or threats on the remaining UN "safe areas."

"We sat down with a cold, quiet determination, we walked through every detail to make sure we got it all right — no splits, no weaknesses, everyone had to be certain and happy with what could follow," said one senior diplomat.

At the same time, Washington — desperate to head off a Congress which wanted to lift the arms embargo against the

Muslims — launched a new diplomatic drive for a peace accord.

NATO's 16 members agreed to broaden the definition of what could trigger air strikes, including for the first time a sudden "concentration of forces" and to widen the zone of action for possible reprisals and range of targets.

"Finally, and most important, we agreed to stop when you remove the threat," the diplomat added.

NATO sources say alliance unity on the issue persuaded UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to agree the most

critical change of all — letting the UN decision on action to pass from its civilian to its military wing.

"NATO and UN military commanders now would turn the key together. That changed everything," an alliance source said.

NATO, which can act in former Yugoslavia only at the request of the United Nations, had blamed the UN's cumbersome bureaucracy for the failure to respond quickly to Serb defiance.

As the summer wore on, Britain and France and other troop-

contributing nations to the UN Protection Force withdrew their soldiers from areas where they could be taken hostage by Bosnian Serbs, as had happened after previous NATO raids.

Independent analysts say two totally unconnected events then suddenly tilted the balance further away from the Serbs.

First, the Croats' rout of the Serbs in Krajina killed the dream of a Greater Serbia.

Then, the death of three top US diplomats in an accident on the treacherous Mount Igman road into Sarajevo increased the determination of President Bill Clinton, entering a pre-election period, not to waver.

When the Bosnian Serbs lobbed a shell into Sarajevo one

week ago and killed over 30 people, NATO waited for the UN to point the finger at the culprits and then blitzed the Bosnian Serbs with its biggest ever combat mission.

The battered citizens of the Bosnian capital may have been surprised by the tough response, but diplomats say Mladic and the Serbs were "even more shocked".

"They had got away with so much, they failed to sense the shift in resolve," said the US diplomat.

He added the action would not stop until the siege of Sarajevo was lifted. "There is no question of a halt before the mission's aims are achieved. We have come too far to lose it now." (Reuters)

Women's conference opens with call for social revolution

EDITH M. LEDERER
BEIJING

THE largest UN conference in history opened yesterday with a call for men to join women in a social revolution for equality — and for governments and international institutions to pay for it.

"A revolution has begun," said Gertrude Mongella, secretary-general of the Fourth World Conference on Women. "There can be no spectators, no side-liners, no abstainers, for this is a crucial social agenda which affects all humanity."

Some of the world's top women political leaders said again and again that the conference will come to nothing without strong follow-up — and that men must be part of the solution.

The gathering of more than 4,750 delegates from 181 countries, the first of its kind in a decade, opened with a lavish Chinese welcoming ceremony. It passed its first day smoothly, in contrast with the controversy over Chinese policing that has dogged a parallel gathering of voluntary organizations.

By yesterday, there were signs of relaxation in Hualou, north of Beijing, where 23,000 activists from private groups have met for the past five days.

Police stood by quietly as about 1,000 members of the international anti-war group Women-in-Black protested silently for an hour demanding an end to violence.

In the only incident in Beijing, Chinese security men barred Winnie Mandela from the welcoming ceremony, saying she came late. Mandela, the estranged wife of South African President Nelson Mandela, who heads the African National Congress Women's League, said her bus lost its way to the Great Hall of the People.

The visit of US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today and tomorrow could be another headache for Chinese security. Activists are planning to capitalize on her highly publicized visit by demonstrating.

But yesterday the spotlight finally turned to issues confronting women and the Platform of Action to be adopted by the conference to guide the women's agenda in the 21st century.

"Cementing the partnership of women and men" is critical, Mongella said.

"Women have all along struggled with their meekness for the abolition of slavery, the liberation of countries from colonialism, the dismantling of apartheid and the struggle for peace. It is now the turn of men to join women in their struggle for equality,"



A Brazilian group stages a protest at the UN women's conference in Hualou, China, yesterday, demanding equal rights for women around the world. (AP)

she said.

The platform includes specific proposals for governments, the United Nations and voluntary organizations to alleviate women's poverty and improve health care, education and job opportunities for women. It also proposes measures to combat violence against women and to make women's voices heard in government and in peace talks.

Mongella said the conference "must elicit commitments to action coupled with commitments of resources, nationally and internationally."

Conservatives in the West and Middle East have portrayed the

conference as a radical, anti-family gathering that will endorse liberal stands on such issues as abortion.

Bhutto, the first Muslim woman prime minister, vigorously defended Islam as a moderate religion and denounced its fundamentalist interpretations.

But she warned that the platform is "disturbingly weak" on the role of the traditional family and said this could lead to distortion by opponents of women's advancement.

Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority said yesterday that the platform "seeks the destruction of the family, and allows the unrestrained practice of adultery and other immoral acts."

Iran's deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, was quoted by the *Iran News* as saying "so-called liberal stands" by some "pro-American and Zionist" elements at the conference were aimed at promoting immoral acts. (AP)

Bomb found in Paris amid tight school security

PARIS (AP) — Schoolchildren faced intense security on the first day of school yesterday while police dismantled a 25-kg bomb, the fifth planted in three months in what apparently is a new wave of terrorism.

The explosive, placed in a public toilet at Place Charles Vallin in southern Paris, was about two blocks from the Paris Police Laboratory where previous bombs have been analyzed.

The French news agency Agence France-Press quoted sources as saying the bomb, placed near an outdoor market, was to have exploded Sunday. A bomb made from a pressure cooker blew up Sunday at a fruit and vegetable stand at another Paris market, near the Place de la Bastille, injuring four women. But it failed to fully explode, avoiding likely extensive injuries.

Hidden in a box and found by a maintenance worker, the bomb found yesterday morning was made with a gas canister similar to two other bombs that exploded since July, killing seven people and injuring about 100, officials said on customary anonymity.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on Algerian Muslim fundamentalist extremists who have threatened France for its support of the military-backed government in Algiers. The Armed Islamic Group is suspected.

Meanwhile, security on the first day of fall classes yesterday was the tightest since the last bombing wave that hit the capital in 1986, killing 13 people.

Only the parents of children in kindergarten were allowed on school grounds, all adults were closely screened and kids were told not to gather in front of their schools or leave their backpacks on the ground. All field trips were canceled until further notice, officials said.

"The recent events are imposing the greatest vigilance on us," explained a statement by the Academy of Paris, which directs the capital's school system.

Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré held an emergency meeting with Paris Police Chief Philippe Massoni, National Police Director Claude Gueant and other security officials but made no statement.

Police have mounted a nationwide effort to tighten security and search for suspects since the first bombing in a Paris regional subway train July 25 that killed seven people and injured 84.

After police boosted patrols and searches and covered up trash cans in subway stations, another bomb exploded on a street near the Arc de Triomphe on Aug. 17, wounding 17 people, including 11 tourists.

On Aug. 26, authorities found a bomb planted on a high-speed train track north of Lyon as French vacationers were returning home. The bomb, which like the other two was made from a gas canister filled with explosive and hexamets, failed to go off.

Since the July bombing, authorities have also conducted tens of thousands of identity checks, deployed extra patrols and evacuated train stations, stores and museums as a result of bomb scares or threats. Metal plates have covered outdoor trash bins along heavily traveled Paris streets after the August blast.

Terror worries also prompted police to ask Planet Hollywood to cancel its star-studded grand opening party that was scheduled at the new theme restaurant on the Champs-Elysees.

Investigators believe the three bombs in July and August were planted by the Armed Islamic Group, which is seeking to topple the Algerian government and establish an Islamic state.

Security was also tight in Brussels yesterday for the opening day of a trial of 13 suspected supporters of the group. About 200 police were to be deployed around the courthouse, trash cans were removed and patrols were stepped up in subways, train stations, the airport and embassies.

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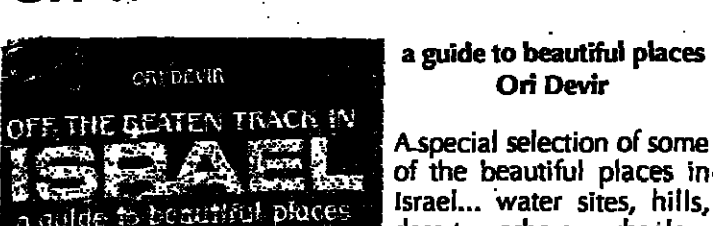
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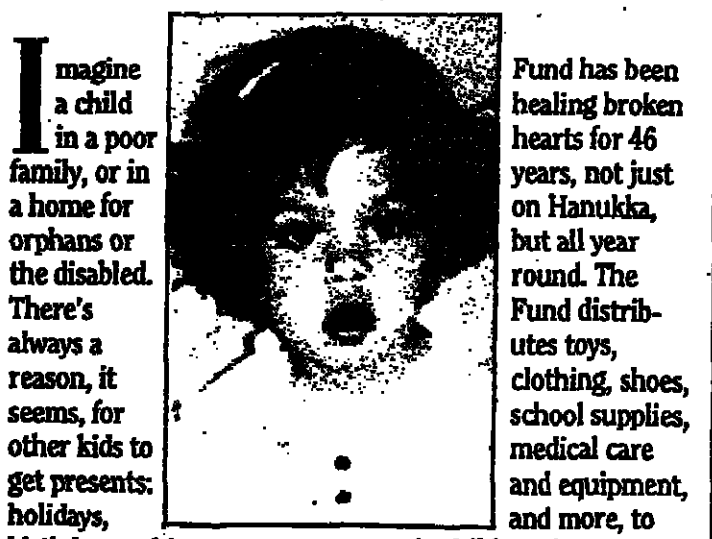
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Jerusalem, still to be won

THAT Christianity and Islam consider Jerusalem a holy city may be viewed by Jews as a form of flattery. It is only because they tried to compete with the Jewish religion and supersede it that they claimed Jerusalem as their own. The city, now routinely described as holy to the three great monotheistic religions, would have meant nothing at all had it not been central to Judaism and the capital of the Jewish nation.

Yet Jews cannot and must not forget that there is a world of difference between what Jerusalem means to them and the role the city plays in Christianity and Islam. There is nothing in the annals of mankind like the relationship between the Jewish nation and Jerusalem.

This is not only because for 3,000 years Jews have considered Jerusalem their spiritual capital and faced Jerusalem in prayer. Nor only because there is no equivalent in history to the vow "next year in Jerusalem," made by Jews everywhere with tenacious, heart-rendering consistency for two millennia. Nor is it just because there is no other capital and holy place for Jews.

Above all, Jerusalem is unique because it is the apotheosis of the dream of return, the quintessence of the vision of rebirth which has kept the Jewish nation alive since the destruction of the Temple. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin put it aptly when, opening the celebrations of Jerusalem's 3,000th birthday yesterday at the Knesset, he said, "There is no Israel without Jerusalem, and there is no peace without undivided Jerusalem, the City of Peace."

Appropriately, he also quoted David Ben-Gurion's statement on the occasion of the move of Israel's government offices to the capital in 1949: "The State of Israel has always had and will always have only one capital, eternal Jerusalem. This is how it was 3,000 years ago, and this is how we believe it will be for eternity." The city is not only a physical capital. It is "the heart of the Jewish people," he stressed. Indeed, to deny Jerusalem's centrality in Jewish life and its role as the Jewish capital is to deny Jews their most fundamental rights as a nation.

Other claims to the city are dwarfed by these facts of history. To strenuously point to Roman and Ottoman architecture or pre-Israelite artifacts found in Jerusalem as proof of the city's universality and diversity, and to suggest that the celebration should commemorate all its inhabitants, beginning with the Canaanites and Jebusites, is an insult to history and common sense - a laughable, self-deprecating bow to politically correct multi-culturalism.

For all but Jews, Jerusalem has never been

anything but just another town. Except for the short-lived Crusader kingdom, no other nation has ever made the city its capital. In fact, all non-Jews have treated it as occupiers, making a special effort to destroy its Jewish character and limit, if not eliminate, freedom of worship for any religion but their own.

One way or another, they tried to emulate the Romans, who attempted to erase Jerusalem's Jewish identity by changing its name to Aelia Capitolina. To suggest now that the city be divided again, that half of it become a capital of a Palestinian state, or that parts of it be internationalized, is to attempt such erasure by other means.

It would have been nice had the celebrations of Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary coincided with world recognition of the city as Israel's undivided capital. That no such recognition is imminent was clearly demonstrated by the absence of the American and European ambassadors at the opening celebrations of the city's birthday.

That the European nations have decided, with typical nasty pettiness and plain malice, to boycott the celebrations is yet another indication that the days of the double standard are far from over. There is no other nation on earth whose capital is not recognized as such by the vast majority of the world community. Unfortunately, Jerusalem is also unique in that no Israeli government has made the recognition of the capital by the major powers topmost in its order of priorities.

Rabin concluded his speech by asserting that "undivided Jerusalem is ours. Jerusalem forever." But no one is more aware than the premier that the battle for Jerusalem has only just begun, and that in the first skirmishes Israel has by no means been the victor.

Israel has capitulated on its demand that three Palestinian Authority governmental offices in the city be shut down. In its update on the encroachment of the PA on Jerusalem, Peace Watch yesterday revealed that there are now 11 major offices in the city connected to the PA, as opposed to seven listed six months ago. And despite Rabin's vow to put an end to the illegal operations of Orient House, there is no indication that the government intends to do anything about it.

The year of celebrations begun yesterday is intended to highlight the uniqueness of the 3,000 year bond of the Jewish people to Jerusalem. If it also reminds Jews in Israel and the Diaspora that the battle for Jerusalem is yet to be won, it will have served its purpose.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INJUDICIOUS CHOICE

Sir, - I notice that your collaborator, Moshe Kohn, quite frequently uses the sentence "Rabin/Peres/Bellin junta" or "gang," "clique," etc.) when describing our government, thus implying that the country is ruled by a corrupt triumvirate of dejected army officers or a bunch of thieves, Tammany-Hall style.

I shall not argue about your likes and dislikes concerning our rulers. What really puzzles me is Mr. Kohn's choice of ministerial names when venting his animosities. Indeed, why *davka* Bellin and not Shohat, Shabai, Namir - you name him (or her), for after all, who is Yossi Bellin? He is nobody's *eminent grise* (Rabin once described him as Peres's poodle), he has practically no influence on our country's destinies and never sat in the inner cabinet. As deputy foreign minister, he was more or less ignored by his superiors and his present position as minister of economics and planning is the one usually reserved for the people one wishes to kick upstairs.

In my opinion, Mr. Bellin is an intelligent, articulate and well-meaning public servant, apparently not over-ambitious considering the dizzy heights reached by him so far.

So if you really want to disparage the political establishment, please be more judicious in the choice of your targets.

ANDRE MOKADY,
Ramat Gan.

LEFT-WING SLANT

Sir, - The Israel Broadcasting Authority has often been accused of having a left-wing slant in its presentation of news and voicing of opinions.

On August 23, I watched *Erev Hadash* ("A New Evening"). We were shown a news clip of Prime Minister Rabin stating that the terrorists who committed the suicide attacks in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem came from Judea and Samaria. He later repeated this twice, using the abbreviation "Yosh." The end of the program, however, Daniel Pe'er quoted Rabin as saying that the terrorists came from the West Bank.

Draw your own conclusions.
JOSEPH A. REIF
Rishon LeZion.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

Sir, - Should Israel continue a so-called "peace process" in reliance upon what Arafat tells Peres, Rabin and the world in English? Or should Israel take Arafat at his "Arabic word" and stop this process immediately? On many occasions since the "handshake," Arafat has called in Arabic for a jihad against Israel. "Give peace a chance" and "what is the alternative" are the two most quoted arguments for continuing this alleged road to peace with an alleged "peace" partner who repeatedly tells his people that we must continue the jihad while he is negotiating in what Peres and Rabin consider good faith.

How can any sane rational nation give control of the West Bank to anyone who calls for a holy war against Israel when he talks to his people, and talks "the peace" when he is dealing with the present leaders of Israel? How can a nation rely on a leader (Peres) who declared that a tape of the June 19 Arafat speech calling for jihad was a forgery, when Arafat later admitted that the tape was accurate?

"Peace" has been given a chance, and what does Israel have to show for it so far? There have been more deaths than ever before. The PA has committed violation after violation of the Oslo agreement. Should a reasonable, rational Israeli expect improvement with the disfigurement of more land to the PA?

Unfortunately, nobody has a solution at present to "what is the alternative." However, to give land which Israel controls to one who repeatedly promises his people a holy war against Israel is definitely not the alternative.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach, Florida.

HADASSAH AWARD

Sir, - In Greer Fay Cashman's column of August 18, she states that the ICC was packed for the ceremony awarding Hadassah's prestigious award to Peres and Rabin. Not so! One half of the lower section was empty because of Hadassah women who stayed away. As a life member of Hadassah, I walked out with others at the presentation.

HATTIE PRUCE YANIGER
Baltimore, Md.

'LOVE THE STRANGER'

Sir, - *Tikkun* editor Michael Lerner attempts to buttress his attack on Rabbi Shlomo Riskin "and his followers" ("Poisoned wells," August 20) by invoking the Torah command to the people of Israel to "love the stranger." His is not a new argument; it is one often used, mostly it seems by the avowedly secular (Jew and gentile) in a rather transparent attempt to get at the conscience of those Israelis who believe in and honor the Torah.

Lerner may quote the Bible to substantiate his beliefs when it suits him. But to maintain credibility he must also acknowledge the preconditions which the Torah lays down in order to be accepted and lovingly treated by Israel. Among these is the command that the stranger respect the law of Israel and acknowledge its applicability to himself (Exodus 12:49 and Leviticus 24:22). Leviticus 18 makes it clear that those strangers who kill or otherwise disobey the law of the land must be "cut off from among the people."

Nowhere is it written that the people of Israel should love the stranger who is intent on stealing their land, or those who board its buses with bombs with bombs on their bodies and murder in their eyes.

STAN GOODENOUGH
Jerusalem.

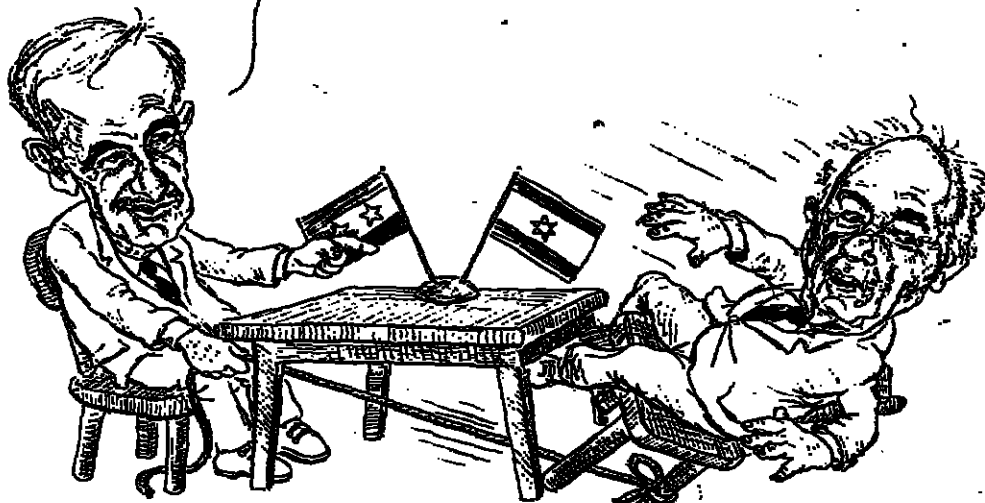
OFFENSIVE STATEMENT

Sir, - Reading Shlomo Riskin's *Shabbat Shalom* of August 25, I feel terribly offended in the name of all the innocent people, religious and nonreligious, who were killed in Auschwitz. How could he write: "Those whose lives rested on a higher meaning, who were involved in working out a mathematical thesis, or who dedicated themselves to preserving and copying segments from the Torah, generally managed to survive Auschwitz."

BOB ENGELSMAN
Jerusalem.

Sir, - Did those Jews Rabbi Riskin mentions have a greater resistance to Zyklon-B? What unfounded foolishness!

YOSEF KLEIN
Savoyon.



DELEGATES

Anti-terror handbook

ACCORDING to Minister Beilin, the recent bus bombing in Jerusalem wasn't the last.

This being so, we must do everything to foil the next attack. Securing citizens' lives is, after all, any government's chief duty. And continuing impotence in the face of terror could bring down this government come next elections.

So what are our options? Revenge? An old-fashioned, regressive sentiment, surely, most ill-chosen in our new sophisticated climate, ill-suited to the high moral ground we have finally achieved.

A "Zionist answer"? A new settlement for every deed of blood? We could drive home the lesson that more Arab terror means not Jewish destruction, but ever more Jewish construction.

No, no, that's out of the question. Since Oslo, we are committed to freezing all settlement. What's more, the mere mention of the word gives us the creeps. Deport the inciters and organizers?

We can't. The 400 Hamas leaders expelled to Lebanon were the last. We promised the US. And deportations would smash the peace process to smithereens. Could we send in the army to pluck the terrorists out of their cities of refuge?

No. It would mean fighting an all-out war against an army of 20,000 in Gaza alone. With the addition of the West Bank, they'll be 50,000-strong. It's not easy breaking into a densely populated urban area defended by tens of thousands of infantry. Remember Beirut, Suez?

That's not all: Within hours, all the Arab states would enter the fray. Even our most cherished peace with Jordan would collapse. How about separation, then, like our premier promised us? It's just not feasible. The cost would be huge, and besides, the

ELYAKIM HA'ETZNI

entire IDF would need to do guard duty along the hundreds of kilometers of the new line. Not to speak of Jerusalem, and the political consequences of separation there. Besides, our partners from the PLO strongly object to the very notion of separation. Every day of unemployment in Israel costs them a million shekels, almost their entire annual budget.

Want to stop the next suicide bomber? Choose your option...

Suppose we don't release imprisoned terrorists?

If we did, some of them would doubtless emerge as the next hit men; but on the other hand, Arafat has made it eminently clear to us that he would be kicked out by his people if we didn't get him a mass prisoner release, including Hamas.

And without Arafat, it's goodbye to peace...

OKAY. We could stop negotiations as long as there's terror.

Out of the question. That would mean admitting failure, and certain electoral defeat. Anyway, isn't stopping the talks Hamas's avowed aim?

How about the death penalty for the murderers?

There's no point pursuing that, now that we have finally integrated into the most progressive part of the enlightened world.

We could demolish murderers' houses...

Completely ruled out. The rage that would ensue among the Palestinian people would largely benefit Hamas, and weaken Arafat.

Straight thinking on peace

MISHA LOUVISH

IT IS natural that repeated Hamas outrages should arouse rage and pain among our people, and some of them have vented their anger against any target within sight. But these instinctive reactions shouldn't be allowed to affect our powers of rational thought.

It is sad to see Yosef Goell writing in this paper (August 25): "Not even in response to terrorist outrages... such as [the] suicide bombing in Jerusalem, will Prime Minister Rabin... declare an end to the peace process with the PLO."

The underlying assumption is that the outrages are somehow caused by the "peace process." So long as the process continues the outrages will continue, but if it is ended, the bombings are likely to cease. This assumption is nonsensical; almost exactly the opposite is the case.

The Hamas outrages have been perpetrated parallel to the negotiations, not because of them. If the talks fail, as extremists on both sides hope, Hamas will win the trust of the Palestinians and continue its campaign of genocide.

The end, or even suspension, of the peace process would be a great victory for the fundamentalists, with incalculable results. That is not "rwaddle," as Goell says, but plain common sense.

The only hope of ending the outrages is an agreement with the Palestinians who are now negotiating with us. There is no guarantee of success; but any other policy means more conflict, more intifadas, more outrages, and, sooner or

later, more wars.

The Israelis so foully murdered in the series of outrages culminating in the Jerusalem attack last month were not victims of the peace process. They were victims of the Arab-Jewish conflict, which Rabin is trying to settle, and the Hamas terrorists are doing their worst to perpetuate.

IN 1937, the Zionist movement adopted the principle that the conflict should be solved by partition

Hamas's outrages aren't caused by the peace process

ing the country. In 1948, the Jews, defending themselves against Arab attacks, established the sovereign, independent State of Israel in part of the country, the rest being occupied by Egypt and Jordan.

For 19 years, the state developed, prospered, and encompassed hundreds of thousands of Jews within its limited de-facto boundaries. But the 1967 victory, in self-defense against Arab aggression, aroused among some of our people the hope of permanent rule over the entire historic Land of Israel, with the Arabs a permanent minority.

The Labor Party, however, remained faithful to the principle of

How about agents inside the autonomous territories?

Alas, we have very few left. The others have been murdered, or transferred into Israel to save their lives. Some claim we abandoned them, and don't want to have anything more to do with us.

Couldn't we close off the territories until the murderers are extradited?

Frankly, Arafat has convinced us that delivering Arabs to the Jews is something his people couldn't tolerate. The prospects of peace would dim again. No, Jericho was the last closure. The Palestinians presented us with a dilemma: Stop negotiations in Eilat, or let Jibril Rajoub, the man personally responsible for harboring the killers, out.

Clearly, when the choice is between peace and another terrorist attack, peace comes first. So Rajoub went to Eilat.

He also staged a small "demonstration" for us: stones, attacks on our soldiers, a flag-burning, the capture of an army post. Of course, we told our soldiers to run. Imagine if they'd opened fire. What are they - settlers? The Palestinian police would certainly have returned fire. Then the ceremony in Washington would have gone down the drain.

At any rate, in the face of public opinion, particularly the extreme right, we can't allow ourselves another outbreak of this kind, another disgraceful flight of our soldiers. So from now on, closure's out.

Extradition, then? We've had that, too, in Jericho. In less than five minutes they conjured up a "special court" out of thin air, indicted, judged, convicted and sentenced the escaped killers.

So what's our next move against terror?

The writer, a lawyer and former MK, is a resident of Kiryat Arba.

The Begin Doctrine

SHLOMO NAKDIMON

SADDAM Hussein's vendetta against his defectors proves that the UN arms-control investigations in Iraq since 1991 haven't turned up the real facts. Apparently even the secrets now coming to light only represent the tip of the iceberg.

The last report to the Security Council by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN committee for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, indicates that Iraq had intended, by April 1991, to produce a nuclear device based on enriched uranium.

The "raw material" for this, weighing some 50 kg, came from France and the Soviet Union, and was ostensibly subject to supervision by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The final plan began to gell in Baghdad after the invasion of Kuwait, and during the American military buildup for war, but the destruction by Allied bombing of the Iraqi nuclear installations in January 1991 put an end to that.

Ekeus's report didn't surprise those few, in Israel and abroad, who had long contended that the UN inspection was full of holes. Those who were surprised in Israel and abroad were obviously those who opposed the 1981 decision by Menachem Begin to attack the "innocent" Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Information available since the Gulf war points to the conclusion that the bombing of the Iraqi reactor was Israel's most important defensive action ever.

AFTER The latest disclosures by Ekeus, known as a discerning man, it is even clearer that Israel was Saddam's target.

Had he succeeded in his aim, Israel would not have had the capacity for a second strike.

After the reactor was taken out, Begin argued that the operation had put off the Iraqi atomic weapon

'Destroy each new Iraqi nuclear reactor'

ons production plan by five years at most.

He then formulated a doctrine: "Based on the precedent we have created, every prime minister and every Israeli government will destroy the [new] reactor before it becomes operational."

Moreover, from talking with Begin I can attest that he meant the disruption of any Iraqi military-nuclear activity (and any in the countries around us as well).

He didn't, for instance, overlook the fact that Saddam was setting up a parallel plan to produce nuclear weapons using procedures, other than reactors. After all, US Senator Allen Cranston had spoken about this plan openly in a plenary Senate meeting in March 1981, three months before the Iraqi reactor was shattered.

Very regrettably, Israel's governments after Begin did not take up his doctrine; by the time they, awake to the danger, it was too late.

In July 1990, days before Iraq's seizure of Kuwait, then defense minister Moshe Arens presented a comprehensive document to Washington on Iraqi nuclear organization. It spoke of a dispersal of sites of activity, and not just the existence of a single reactor - and so there was no longer any prospect of repeating the Israeli Air Force strike of June 1981.

International action was now called for; but the chances seemed small. Yet, at that very moment, God performed a miracle, confusing the Iraqi dictator's mind and causing him to invade Kuwait. The rest is being uncovered day by day.

Looking back, the remaining Israeli critics of the 1981 bombing, including Shimon Peres, must admit their mistake.

To add emphasis, this is what Begin replied to my question of what he believed had been his most important decision as prime minister: "Peace with Egypt was important and essential; but only time will prove if it is effective. In contrast, the bombing [of the Iraqi nuclear reactor] definitively prevented the possibility of a second Holocaust. We must remain alert to ensure that this [Iraqi] attempt is not repeated."

The writer, who is a member of Yediot Aharonot's editorial staff, is the author of *First Strike*, describing the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981.

Welsh soprano's advice: Don't eat the humous

A very relaxed Rebecca Evans turned up in shorts at the Santa Fe Opera canteen earlier this summer.

The Welsh soprano was making her American debut as Susanna in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* in this New Mexico city's opera festival. She said it was a very different experience from her international debut three years ago in Tel Aviv.

Relaxing, Tel Aviv wasn't. The stresses included a bad batch of humous, "discovering that she had to kiss a woman on stage, and dealing with an unusual production."

But it all worked out and, yes, she claims she would love to come back. Evans has been invited to perform the role of the captive Cretan princess Ila in a new production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, directed by David Alden.

"When we talked about it he [Alden] wanted me to be a kind of an Anne Frank character falling in love with a Nazi," she says. "So I read the diaries and tried to imagine how it would be in those days when the Greeks and Cre-

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
SANTA FE

tans were around. I'm sure their war was as important to them as any war is important to us today." While the interpretation was new to Evans, the role was not.

Two years earlier, Evans, barely out of music school, understudied Ila in a production of the Welsh National Opera.

As luck would have it, the soprano who was signed to sing Ila in Cardiff got sick, and Evans offered to jump in.

"The director wasn't happy as I was inexperienced, but it turned out an overwhelming success for me and the production," she says.

In Cardiff, Evans sang opposite a tenor Idamante, the Greek prince with whom she falls in love. In Israel, there was a mezzo-soprano Idamante, and it was a surprise Evans did not know how to handle.

"She was the first woman I had to kiss on the stage, and I found that a bit odd. I guess I was inex-

perienced at the time. Later on when I sang Sophie [in Strauss's *Rosenkavalier*] I had no problems with Octavian [who also was sung by a mezzo-soprano]."

On top of all that, Evans was ill throughout her entire stay in Israel.

"I had a virus," she says. "I ate something that really upset me. I think it was some bad humous. I lost 14 pounds, which was great for a moment, but not really."

Although she always loved to sing, for five years Evans worked as a professional nurse in a small hospital in Wales.

"Then I took some singing lessons and suddenly my life was very busy," Evans says. "I was nursing during the week and singing on weekends with male choirs all over Wales, and so my nursing was suffering and I really had to make a decision."

The decision was made once Evans met Welsh baritone Bryn Terfel.

"When he heard I was a nurse, he told me I was a fool and advised me to pursue a career in singing."

Evans accepted the challenge.



Rebecca Evans's US debut went a lot smoother than her appearance in Tel Aviv.

Today, advancing her career is on the top of Evans's priority list. "You have to be selfish and disciplined in a way, if you want to keep on singing," she says. "You can't get drunk, at least not to often, and you can't go to a disco as it's loud and you have to shout there."

As for family, no thank you, at least for the time being.

"I mean who knows," Evans says. "At the moment my career is very important. It's probably very selfish, but I feel I gave up a lot leaving my nursing. I left all my friends and the job I love, and so I owe it to myself to give it all I can."

Barenboim defends Jerusalem 3000 lineup

HELEN KAYE

DANIEL Barenboim, who arrived here over the weekend to conduct three performances for the opening week of Jerusalem 3000, holds no truck with the political and religious controversies looming over the 15-month-long event.

He will lead the Berlin State Opera, of which he is the music director, in Beethoven's *Jesus on the Mount of Olives* (Wednesday), *Fidelio* (Thursday) and Ninth Symphony (Friday).

Jerusalem 3000 should be outside politics because "the fate of Jerusalem [in the context of the peace settlement] is one thing and this is something else. Drag politics in and out goes the event's singularity," he comments.

"I'm happy to come to the 3000. It's important for me as an artist and as an Israeli," he says. "Jerusalem is the symbol of our history and that of others, and that symbolism is perhaps the best gift we can give to the world. We're speaking of a historical,

religious and cultural center for all the nations."

Asked about the fuss that the Orthodox have made over the performance of *Jesus on the Mount of Olives* coupled with Stravinsky's *Psalm*, Barenboim rejected the accusation of antisemitism, calling it "a Levantine excuse. I chose the work, not the Germans. Jerusalem isn't just any city and [the choice of program] represents its symbolic and humanist importance."

He splits hairs as neatly as a talmudist (or a Jesuit), adding that "Jesus had some connection with the Jewish people, if I'm not mistaken. The oratorio tells his story, that's all, and to play it on the very site is marvelous, very special. I'm looking forward to the concert."

He's been at the Berlin State Opera (Unter den Linden) since '92. It has its street address in its title to distinguish it from its colleague in the West, the Berlin Opera. Until the unification of Germany, Berlin State Opera

was part of the communist GDR.

And that, says Barenboim, coupled with its decade and a half under the Nazis, is responsible for the orchestra's special sound "because it was closed to outside influences for all of those years. Their sound is that of the '30s, the sound I grew up with."

It's not politically correct to say so, he continues, but that's a German sound.

Not Germanic, or Teutonic or anything that is allied to the awful nationalism that propelled Germany into its two disastrous wars, but the German sound of music.

The sound Beethoven himself heard when the 450-year-old orchestra played his music.

Barenboim has, he says, "expanded their sound but not changed it." He has also exposed the orchestra to 20th-century music.

The State Opera has never been here and the artists are looking forward to their visit "enormously and with that special feeling that any German of conscience and sensitivity must have visiting here."

They are women, hear them roar

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

FORGET Freud's infamous question "What do women want?" Two utterly female current albums shunt it aside with the simple statement: "Women want!"

Interestingly enough, much of the power in these two strong, sensual albums, featuring out-front front women, comes from the brilliant musical backing they're given by the men behind the women.

Atlanta's trio TLC may look like sugar and spice in their studio portrait. But their album *CrazySexyCool* (Hed Arzi) shows them to be decidedly streetwise and even downright gross.

Meanwhile, on the cover of *Zippies* (Hed Arzi), Bernard grad Vanessa Daoud looks like various other, only slightly provocative, trendy New York City slickers. But it is Erica Jong's more than slightly provocative, bawdy, feminist poetry that she is speaking/singing.

CrazySexyCool was released in '94, but is still spawning R&B/rap hits. The first was "Creep," in which a woman explains how she takes care of herself by cheating back on a beloved man who cheats on her.

Then came the lascivious "Red Light Special," with its toe-tickling video and the message: "I'm a woman/ A real woman/ I know just what I want/ I know just who I am."

Oddly enough, these lines were written by one of the male producers of the album, Babyface, whose credits include producing Madonna.

The third single is the current "Waterfalls," with its haunting hook: "Don't go chasing waterfalls" and its cautionary tales (effectively staged in the beautiful video) about a boy who refuses to

listen to his lonely mother's warnings about the dangers of drug dealing, and a young stud who catches AIDS.

This one is co-authored by Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes (the one with her hair in girlish bunches). The 24-year-old Lopes is the most active of the three behind the scenes.

She is also (or was according to an article written a year ago) a very publicly battered woman.

At the time she was facing arson charges for allegedly burning her Atlanta football hero's house to the ground. The other two TLC members professed either outright celibacy or the self-respecting ability to just say no.

The image of the lithe, controlled, sexy superwoman may be fueled by male fantasies, yet those fantasies are inspired by the women whose myth they are both building up and banking on. TLC are not just puppets in their interplay with their male musical partners. The silky swagger with which they deliver the song and dance is their own. So is their crudity.

It is "Chili," who takes prime credit for a joke interlude in which she teases a man with a breathy phone call that ends with the sound of a flushing toilet. The men, heard here only in brief spoken segments, are saying that they are turned on by women who fight back. TLC are taking them up on it.

LIKE TLC, Vanessa Daoud's backup is male. Though she sings and writes melody lines, it is her husband Peter who produces, arranges and plays the "ambient" blend of jazz, rock and even classical oriented music that propels her work, and he is good.

One might even wonder what



Contrary to appearances TLC are decidedly streetwise and even downright gross. (M. Lavine)

27-year-old Vanessa, delivering Erica Jong's words and floating on her husband's rich music, is doing headlining this effort. But somehow it's her concept, her baby.

Sounding a bit like Suzanne Vega, she is restrained, giving an almost ethereal reading to explicit descriptions of love-making, female self-abuse and scorn of male inability to handle women's emotional "messiness."

The result is an album that can, as intended, be played much more often than a mere poetry reading could, though it could perhaps have gained from a bit

more passion and vocal flexibility.

When Daoud repeats strong lines over and over in a catchy, song-like fashion to a good beat it works well, like "Near the Black Forest," which really takes off into a song that sings.

This effort is perhaps a little too "cool." Nonetheless, there is an interesting subtlety to a work that pushes listeners to come up with ideas of their own, to say nothing of a collection of words that often forces one to think.

The overall effect is both pleasant and hypnotic. The last poem/song is a new

one called "Smoke" (about marijuana, the cosmos and the eternal now) spoken by Jong herself. The contrast of her traditionally intense, personalized reading makes one appreciate the roominess of Daoud's slightly bland alternative.

Perhaps a looser, punchier interpretation would have made the album stick to your ribs better.

Nonetheless, her genuine innovation is way ahead of the vast majority of the pop mainstream. Like the earthy sisterhood of TLC, Vanessa Daoud is surely no wimp.

The ice-queen cometh

CONCERT ROUNDUP

ICELANDIC avant-garde pop singer Bjork gave an astounding performance in Caesarea last week. Though she is a darling of MTV, nothing prepared us for the impact of her remarkable stage presence.

On the one hand Bjork is the epitome of free-spirited inspiration - she skips around the stage like a schoolgirl, singing stream-of-consciousness texts. On the other, the former child star is a completely controlled professional who knows every trick of the stage trade.

Though her somewhat minimalist music can be repetitive, it is always original, as are this wild Bohemian elf's movements.

Her keen voice and bold approach were projected from a stage decorated with weird troll-like trees. A multicolored light show bathed her, and at times the audience, with stroboscopic beams, as an unpretentious band pumped rhythms and sounds that have very little to do with anything anybody else in the business is doing today. The wonder of this individualism is that she actually got everybody dancing.

Caesarea Amphitheater, August 29.

Tirzah Agassi

ON the eve of a major tour of Poland and the Czech Republic, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra bade its local audience farewell with a concert that suggested that our audiences are in for a real treat. In front of a less than

full house on a very hot day, the JSO played with enthusiasm, verve and distinction.

David Shalton, JSO music director, has performed Bernstein's First Symphony, the unforgettable "Jeremiah," several times with his musicians. But this performance was one of the best. It conveyed the real essence of the piece - from the intensity of the first movement, "Prophecy," to the emotional outburst of the Lamentation in the finale through the scherzo-like "Profanation," in which Noam Buchman played magically on his flute.

There were very few weak links in either the playing or the interpretation. The sound was bright and clear and the musicians' devotion and dedication to the score was beyond reproach.

The soloist in the final movement was Jerusalem's mezzo-soprano Susanna Poretzky, today a major international singer. Her warm, lush voice grows in stature, breadth and intonation from performance to performance, and she delivered Bernstein's music with the appropriate pathos and drama.

Poretzky also gave a towering reading of six of Dvorak's *Biblical Songs*, which unfortunately are not performed very often. Here Poretzky's big, caressing voice conveyed all the beauty and magic of the Slavic music.

Henry Crown Symphony Hall, Jerusalem, August 30.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Director holds both actress and audience captive

BLOOD

Written, directed and designed by Amir Orion. At the Room Theater, Tel Aviv. Hebrew title: *Dam*.

The patient Einat Weizman
A shrink Guy Cohen
A neighbor Nicolette Algranati
A visitor Amir Erez

Amir Orion, driven by a compulsion to expose one of the crueler faces of fanatic fundamentalism in ultra-Orthodox communities, returns to the theme of the sexual torments of ten perpetrated on their women. Basing his play on a Yemenite story by Bracha Serri, this time

he shifts the ethnic scene from Sha'arayim to a Haredi quarter in Bnei Brak or Mea She'arim.

In what is tantamount to a monodrama, his protagonist - bed-bound and afflicted with post-natal depression - reveals in her ravings a history of sexual abuse and humiliation.

In the experimental theater tied to his Open Circle Method, Orion confines the action to the tiny area he calls his "Laboratory Theater."

Here, a captive audience never exceeding 15 is held in intimate

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

proximity and pulsing interaction with the actors.

This is a significant element in the unfolding of the drama. The 15 present the guests who come to visit the half-demented patient bound hand and foot to the bed in the corner of "The Room."

The material, spellbinding in its authenticity and agonizing detail, affords an unlimited range of vocal and facial expression to an

actress as gifted as Einat Weizman.

Her performance sustains a deeply moving ethos that amounts to more than just another workshop exercise.

Yet even if, as part of the audience involvement, one's critical faculty should be in suspension, mine was stirred by a horrid suspicion that here the actress, like audience, was a captive witness in a "closed" rather than an "Open Circle." Somewhere, silently, invisibly manipulating was the palpable Svengali presence of the director.

Brilliantly innovative as Orion shows himself in this and other past ceremonials of the same kind, one wonders about the psychic effects this method may have on the personalities of vulnerable performers.

The possibility that his detestation of the revolting facts of female sexual abuse has become something of an obsession, is equally disturbing.

After all, there are many other areas in which the formidably faithful deviate from the norms of civilized conduct that deserve similar exposure and denunciation.

Hugh Grant gets a boost

EMMA Thompson to Hugh Grant: good job, old boy! The Academy Award-winning British actress said Grant's notorious liaison with a Sunset Boulevard prostitute was "wonderful, absolutely wonderful" in an interview published Sunday.

"I don't think it was a mistake at all," she told *The Independent* on Sunday newspaper. "I

thought, thank God, you know, you've broken out."

Grant pleaded no contest to lewd conduct in July after Los Angeles police arrested him in his car with a prostitute. He plays Thompson's love interest in *Sense and Sensibility*, due out in December.

Thompson won the best actress Oscar in 1992 for *Howard's End*.

Kolben goes back to 'Casablanca'

DANCE REVIEW

DORA SOWDEN

GIFTED choreographer Amir Kolben has improved his latest work, *Casablanca*. The performance at the Gerard Behar Theater in Jerusalem on August 31 was much better than its premiere there some while ago.

Casablanca - an eternal love triangle involving two women and a man - is linked with the film classic of that name; but the snippets on the screen were now less dominant and obtrusive, while flashes of Bogart and Bergman were used as comment rather than a pivot.

The dancing was a smoldering

affair expressed by the three characters in passionate solos, duets and finally a trio.

The focus thus remained on Galit Hamami, Riki Jarone and Kolben himself, with Zohar Rabinovich on the sidelines.

The performers' gymnastic whirled from a strange, fish-shaped metal object was fascinating; the dancing as a whole acrobatic but also anguished.

This was an ingenious drama of

troubled souls.

Despite its title, *Body Express* is a bright and lively show that lives up to its subtitle - "Hallelujah Broadway."

Performed on August 29 at the Tel Aviv Opera Tower, this richly costumed, excellently rehearsed and smartly presented piece was more nostalgic than new.

The seven or eight dancers in the "chorus line" were all beautiful.

The songs belted out in high traditional style ranged from "Hey Big Spender" and "Hello Dolly" to more recent hits.



September 24 is the last day for purchasing half-price tickets for The Event on October 10 at Wingate. Phone the Ticket Hotline today, 09-989149 or 09-982957 or contact your local Olim organization. NIS 15 (Adults), NIS 10 (Children 5-18, soldiers), Under 5 FREE. Inquire about subsidized bus tickets!

CORRECTION

The author and director of the Kibbutz Theater Company production of *Three Quarters* is Yoram Porat and not Yoram Falk as printed yesterday.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995

Bank Leumi restructures
Divisions now based on four customer categories

BANK Leumi announced yesterday major restructuring changes and the hiring of additional senior management staff.

Leumi's board of directors approved the changes, formulated by recently appointed managing director Galia Maor, that will change the bank's structure into divisions based on customer type and activity. Each division will offer services to customer groups through branches tailored to the group's needs.

Customers have been divided into four categories: private and small commercial customers, who will receive bank services through the banking division, made up of 188 branches; medium-sized business customers,

who will receive services through the commercial division, made up of 35 branches; upscale clients from here and abroad who will receive services through the division of special banking, located in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa; and large businesses, who will receive service through the business, international, and real estate divisions.

Among other approved changes, the bank has established a marketing and strategic development division to develop new banking and financial services, a division for subsidiaries that merges capital market and financial services activities, and a man-

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

agement resources division responsible for human resources, operations, and management.

"From now on, Bank Leumi's structure is organized to handle customers' requirements from the management level to the personal banker at customer branches," Maor said.

The bank will begin operating under the new structure on October 1.

Due to the changes, the board has appointed four new senior managers who will work directly under Maor, and an additional eight managers who will serve on Leumi's management board. The four major appointments

are: Ehud Shapira, who will be in charge of business and international banking in addition to his current position as corporate division manager; Avraham Zeldman, banking division head, who was appointed in charge of private and commercial banking; Shmuel Sussman, current head of the bank's human resources division, who was appointed manager of the resources department; and Ze'ev Nahari, head of the finance and accounting division, who was appointed head of the finance and economics division.

Arye Nissim, head of the capital market and financial services division, and Moshe Nadir, operations and administration head, announced yesterday they will resign.

Koor sets
cash dividend
distribution
policy

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KOOR Industries' board of directors declared yesterday an annual cash dividend distribution policy of not less than NIS 3 per share.

The dividend will be distributed twice a year.

The board declared a cash dividend of NIS 1.5 per share for the first six months of the year, equal to NIS 21m. for the period, or NIS 42m. on an annual basis.

Koor's subsidiaries will also distribute dividends.

The board said the dividends will be based on earnings, the economic situation, and other relevant factors.

President and CEO Benny Gaon said the policy reflects the group's belief that shareholders are entitled to benefit from company profits.

"The decision to adopt a cash dividend policy is part of the firm's policy to be a multinational holding company," he said.

Koor has not distributed dividends since 1992 due to a financial arrangement made with creditor banks. A spokesman said the company instituted the new policy since it has repaid all debts and is not subject to bank dividend distribution limitations.

Last week, Koor reported a 118 percent growth in second-quarter net profits to NIS 135m., from NIS 62m. in the same period last year. Six-month profits rose 16%, while net return on equity for the first half reached 16.1%.

Tax receipts
rise 2%
last month

Post Business Staff

TAX receipts rose two percent to NIS 6.7 billion last month compared with last August, the finance ministry announced yesterday.

During the first eight months of the year, tax revenues increased 4% compared with the same period last year, reaching NIS 55.6b. However, adjusting for legislative tax changes and payment transferred to the Palestinian Authority, which reduced the tax base, revenues rose 7%.

Income and property tax revenues were up 1% to NIS 3.8b. Since January, revenues have risen 5%, reflecting a jump in individual income tax receipts, despite reductions in property tax receipts.

Customs and Value Added Taxes rose 3% in real terms to NIS 2.8b. During the first eight months of the year, they rose 2%, however, when adjusting for customs and purchase tax reductions, as well as tax transfers to the Palestinians, they rose 7%.

VAT refunds rose 6% since the beginning of the year.

Meanwhile, the growth in durable good imports moderated last month. Car imports rose 3% to 10,000 units, while dishwashers and washing machines rose 1% and video recorders soared 53%. By contrast, television imports fell 31%, while refrigerators dropped 22%.

Elbit close to
major sale of
avionics system

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELBIT notified the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday that it is ready to conclude a major avionics systems sale.

The buyer's name was not revealed, however, the sale is related to a major aircraft upgrade project in which the supply of avionics systems will be subcontracted to Elbit.

Upon conclusion, the firm's share in the project will be between \$70 million and \$90m., to be paid out over an unspecified number of years.

Elbit operates as both an aircraft systems integrator and a supplier of upgrade systems. The company has retrofitted a broad range of aircraft including the A-4, F-4, F-5, F-16, Mirage, and helicopters.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Shiloah Insurance has appointed Moshe Abramovitch as general manager of the company, the board of directors announced yesterday. Abramovitch will take over from Menahem Harpaz, who resigned due to personal circumstances. Abramovitch has managed Israel Land Development Insurance over the last four years. Before that, he worked at Shiloah for 16 years. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Amisragas, the American-Israeli Gas Corporation, hosted a seminar yesterday on Economic and Safety Regulations concerning natural gas. "In view of advancing preparations to [integrate] natural gas in Israel, it is fitting to [learn from] the world's experience in using this energy source," Amisragas president Rafael Paradis said.

Lectures were presented by John Erickson, vice president of the American Gas Association, and William Kelestrom, senior VP of Noram Energy. *Rachel Neiman*

IEC buys 150 Silicon Graphics work stations: The Israel Electric Corporation has purchased 150 Silicon Graphics computer work stations for \$3.6m. The computers will be used to plan the new Ashdod power station. An additional \$1.6 billion will be invested in the new coal-based station. *Rachel Neiman*

Toys R Us International has placed a \$1.2m. order with interactive software/hardware manufacturer Comfy. The toy store chain will market Comfy products, which target the infant and pre-school market, in 600 stores in the US. The Disney-affiliated multinational Shamrock made a NIS 4m. investment in Comfy last month. *Rachel Neiman*

Ytong inaugurated a new advertising campaign yesterday geared to the Arab sector. The slogan "Ytong [quality] rises above the price," was chosen to emphasize the construction material's price after market research showed the firm's cement blocks are perceived as far more expensive than competing products. *Rachel Neiman*

UNIX, NT users to increase: The number of local institutions using UNIX and NT (networking) operating systems is expected to rise during the next three years, according to a survey conducted by Meta Group-Israel. NT operating system usage is expected to rise to 70%. Industrial and public services head the list of groups making the transition from open VMS to NT.

UNIX use is expected to increase to 80%, led by the defense and high-tech sectors. Many organizations use both operating systems.

Market shares held by IBM's OS/2 and Novell Netware are expected to decline to 22%, from 50%, and 45%, from 80%, respectively. Both operating systems are used primarily by the financial sector. *Rachel Neiman*

Plastic, rubber sales growth second highest in the world: Israel is the world's second highest growth market for plastic and rubber sales, the Manufacturers Association reported yesterday. The results are based on figures published by the worldwide plastic and rubber association.

Israel registered a 19.1% growth in sales in 1994, as plastic and rubber sales increased to \$2.2 billion last year. Hungary registered the highest growth worldwide, up 21.5% from the previous year. *Rachel Neiman*

Large Australian trade delegation to arrive soon: The largest-ever trade delegation from Australia is to arrive this month as guests of Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish.

The delegation, due to arrive Sunday, includes 35 participants from Australia and New Zealand, and will be here for a week of meetings with leading economic and industrial figures.

The group is headed by David Mortimer, general manager of TNT, the Australian transport giant, who is looking to establish a base here for his company's Middle East operations. Among other participants will be representatives from the ANZ Bank and the Pratt paper company. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Teachers' groups transfer funds to First International: The Teachers Federation and the Post-Elementary School Teachers Organization transferred their advanced study funds to the management of First International Bank's provident funds earlier this week.

The two funds have more than 110,000 members with assets valued at about NIS 2.4b. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Taste of Israel losses increase

RACHEL NEIMAN

TASTE of Israel reported second-quarter net losses of NIS 717,000, from net losses of NIS 405,000 in the same period last year.

Revenues fell to NIS 8.3m., from NIS 9.3m.

Six-month profits were NIS 225,000 compared with NIS 895,000, on revenues of NIS 21.46m., from NIS 23.17m.

Manufacturing costs increased during the reported period due to the firm's construction of a marshmallow production line.

The company intends to continue its pre-sale marketing policy and expand its local client base.

Taste of Israel's product range in the coming quarter will expand to include chocolate coins and chewing gum.



Tourism Minister Uzi Baram (l) and British Airways head of regions and sales, John Watson, meet on the eve of the Prime Minister's Tourism Conference on Peace Tourism. Baram said 1995 has been a record-breaking year for incoming tourists. During the first eight months, 1.6 million tourists, a rise of 16 percent compared with the same period last year, arrived here. Some 350 tourism industry leaders worldwide are expected to attend the conference. (Text: Haim Shapiro; Photo: Isaac Harari)

Agriculture exports
to jump by 18%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AGRICULTURE exports will increase by 18 percent to \$715 million in the 1994/95 export season compared with \$605m. in the 1993/94 export season, the Agriculture Ministry announced yesterday.

The figures are based on Agrexco's exports, which are expected to reach \$550m. this season.

The export season runs from October to September.

The ministry said citrus is the leading sector for exports, reaching \$174m., up 45% compared with the previous season. Flower exports increased 17% to \$160m., while exports of field crops rose 1% to \$104m.

While processed agriculture exports reached \$350m. last year, fresh and processed exports are expected to reach \$1.06 billion, one third of the country's entire agriculture production.

Agrexco general manager Shlomo Tirosch said the export sector has been characterized by instability.

"The season started with a drop in exports because of high prices in the domestic market, which encouraged farmers to sell their produce locally. In January, there was a turnaround, as more produce was directed to the export market," he said.

Shohat okays coverage
increase for exporters

Post Business Staff

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat has authorized, at the request of the Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Co. (IFTRIC), an increase in the amount of coverage for exporters, giving them mid- and long-term credit similar to that now available only in the short-term, the Treasury announced yesterday.

Mid- and long-term credit - for periods up to 10 years - will be increased from 82.5 percent to as much as 90%. Until now, 90% coverage was only available in short-term deals - up to one year - with countries rated A or B, such as the US, Germany, Japan, Italy, Greece, Chile, and Thailand.

Shohat also authorized an increase in short-term coverage in deals with countries ranked C and D in political risk - from 80% to 85% and from 70% to 80%. These countries include India, China, Colombia, Poland, Bulgaria, Brazil, and Jordan.

The finance minister said the increase was mandated by increasing international competition in the export of capital, industrial equipment, and medical and high-tech goods.

Shekem will invest \$20m.
to modernize stores

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SHEKEM will invest \$20 million to restore and modernize its department stores, the firm announced yesterday.

The chain's flagship store, Shekem Gallery in Tel Aviv, is to open Saturday night, following renovations of \$5m. that were initiated shortly after Elco purchased Shekem from the government some eight months ago.

"We have tried to create a buying atmosphere similar to what

Israelis search for when they go abroad," managing director Amnon Dick said yesterday. "We are offering fashionable products in attractive showcases at reasonable prices."

He said an additional four stores - in Bat Yam, Haifa, Jerusalem, and Ramat Gan - will be turned into upscale, Shekem Gallery stores by year's end.

In addition, the firm will operate ten standard department stores as well as a chain of supermarket and hypermarket stores.

Competitive imports are 30%
of industrial product market

Post Business Staff

COMPETITIVE imports represented some 30 percent of all industrial products in the local market in 1994, according to a Central Bureau of Statistics study released yesterday.

The study noted that competitive imports made up 27% of the market in 1992, and 20% in 1990.

Competitive imports are products which face local competition making up at least 20% of that market's product.

The increase is linked to the liberalization of the economy, which has been increasingly ex-

posed to competitive imports. The increase affected products in all industrial sectors, according to the survey.

In the food sector, competitive imports represented 14% of the local demand, compared with 10% in 1990. A sharp rise was recorded in the clothing industry, in which competitive imports grew from 10% in 1990 to 18% in 1994.

In the wood sector, the rate increased from 15% to 20%, whereas competitive imports grew from 35% to 40% in the leather sector.

Bank Otsar Hahayal profits up to NIS 13.9m.

BANK Otsar Hahayal reported second-quarter net profits of NIS 13.9 million compared with profits of NIS 12.8m. in 1994.

First-half profits increased 8.45 percent to NIS 5.5m., from NIS 4.4m. Net return on equity on an annual basis fell to 14.98%, from 16.06%.

The bank recorded a 3% growth in financing profits before provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 88m., from NIS 67.2m. Op-

erating and other income rose to NIS 35m., from NIS 34.8m.

The rise was partly offset by a growth in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 8.9m., from NIS 5.6m. Operating and other expenses grew to NIS 85.4m., from NIS 68.9m.

• C Mer Industries posted net losses of NIS 3.36m., from losses of NIS 2.39m. in 1994. Revenues rose to NIS 26m., from NIS 20.6m. Half-year net losses were

NIS 3m. compared with NIS 5.7m. Revenues rose to NIS 52.7m., from NIS 35.7m.

• Tuttnauer reported losses of NIS 4.7m., from losses of NIS 4.6m. in 1994. Revenues rose to NIS 24.3m., from NIS 14.19m.

Six-month losses were NIS 4.6m. compared with NIS 5.7m., on revenues of NIS 38.49m., from NIS 24.3m.

Galit Lipkis Beck and Rachel Neiman

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (5.9.95)			
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.000	5.000	5.125
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.875	4.875	5.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.750	2.750	3.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.9.95)			
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES	
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.4417	3.4978	3.112
German mark	3.0211	3.0589	2.98
French franc	2.0715	2.1021	2.14
Pound sterling	4.7115	4.7575	4.63
Japanese yen (100)	3.1048	3.1340	3.05
Dutch guilder	1.8489	1.8788	1.81
Swiss franc	2.5255	2.5555	2.48
Scandinavian krona	0.4147	0.4214	0.40
Norwegian krona	0.4723	0.4810	0.46
Denmark krone	0.5529	0.5615	0.54
Finland mark	0.0507	0.0519	0.05
Canadian dollar	2.2487	2.2850	2.21
Australian dollar	2.2523	2.2850	2.21
S. African rand	0.0258	0.0262	0.024
Singapore dollar	1.0258	1.0282	0.98
Australian dollar (10)	2.2487	2.2850	2.21
Italian lire (1000)	1.8600	1.8901	1.82
Japanese yen (100)			
Spanish peseta (100)	3.2550	3.2950	3.15
Israeli punt	4.8225	4.8525	4.72
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4130	2.4330	2.37

* These rates vary according to bank.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Petach Tikva: 09-482015 • Ramat Hasharon: 03-5408801

Key Representative Rates

	Change
US dollar ... NIS 3.9440	---
Sterling ... NIS 4.7401	+0.35%
Mark ... NIS 2.9883	+0.53%

French union heads warn PM over strikes

PARIS (Reuters) - French trade union leaders warned Prime Minister Alain Juppe yesterday that his austerity plans, including cuts in welfare spending and a tight rein on public sector wages, could spark strikes this autumn.

The conservative premier met with a cool reception when he unveiled, in a series of talks with labor chiefs, his reform plans to curb public spending.

Although most unions answered Juppe's call for a nationwide debate on welfare, several accused the government of going back on presidential campaign pledges during which victorious candidate Jacques Chirac had taken a leftist stance on welfare issues and backed strikers demanding pay hikes.

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	2752.5	+15.1
Nikkei 225	17745.2	+272.2
S&P 500	518.02	+1.47
Hong Kong Hang Seng	1272.56	+28.91
Israel Index	1572.0	+2.28

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Hong Kong Hang Seng	1272.56	+28.91
Israel Index	1572.0	+2.28

Dollar crossrates (US)

	Last	Change
Point: spot	1.5324	+0.0006
3 months	1.5324	---
6 months	1.5324	---
12 months	1.5324	---
18 months	1.5324	---
24 months	1.5324	---
36 months	1.5324	---
48 months	1.5324	---
60 months	1.5324	---
72 months	1.5324	---
84 months	1.5324	---
96 months	1.5324	---
108 months	1.5324	---
120 months	1.5324	---
132 months	1.5324	---
144 months	1.5324	---
156 months	1.5324	---
168 months	1.5324	---
180 months	1.5324	---
192 months	1.5324	---
204 months	1.5324	---
216 months	1.5324	---
228 months	1.5324	---
240 months	1.5324	---
252 months	1.5324	---
264 months	1.5324	---
276 months	1.5324	---
288 months	1.5324	---
300 months	1.5324	---
312 months	1.5324	---
324 months	1.5324	---
336 months	1.5324	---
348 months	1.5324	---
360 months	1.5324	---
372 months	1.5324	---
384 months	1.5324	---
396 months	1.5324	---
408 months	1.5324	---
420 months	1.5324	---
432 months	1.5324	---
444 months	1.5324	---
456 months	1.5324	---
468 months	1.5324	---
480 months	1.5324	---
492 months	1.5324	---
504 months	1.5324	---
516 months	1.5324	---
528 months	1.5324	---
540 months	1.5324	---
552 months	1.5324	---
564 months	1.5324	---
576 months	1.5324	---
588 months	1.5324	---
600 months	1.5324	---
612 months	1.5324	---
624 months	1.5324	---
636 months	1.5324	---
648 months	1.5324	---
660 months	1.5324	---
672 months	1.5324	---
684 months	1.5324	---
696 months	1.5324	---
708 months	1.5324	---
720 months	1.5324	---
732 months	1.5324	---
744 months	1.5324	---
756 months	1.5324	---
768 months	1.5324	---
780 months	1.5324	---
792 months	1.5324	---
804 months	1.5324	---
816 months	1.5324	---
828 months	1.5324	---
840 months	1.5324	---
852 months	1.5324	---
864 months	1.5324	---
876 months	1.5324	---
888 months	1.5324	---
900 months	1.5324	---
912 months	1.5324	---
924 months	1.5324	---
936 months	1.5324	---
948 months	1.5324	---
960 months	1.5324	---
972 months	1.5324	---
984 months	1.5324	---
996 months	1.5324	---
1008 months	1.5324	---
1020 months	1.5324	---
1032 months	1.5324	---
1044 months	1.5324	---
1056 months	1.5324	---
1068 months	1.5324	---
1080 months	1.5324	---
1092 months	1.5324	---
1104 months	1.5324	---
1116 months	1.5324	---
1128 months	1.5324	---
1140 months	1.5324	---
1152 months	1.5324	---
1164 months	1.5324	---
1176 months	1.5324	---
1188 months	1.5324	---
1200 months	1.5324	---
1212 months	1.5324	---
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1680 months	1.5324	---
1692 months	1.5324	---
1704 months	1.5324	---
1716 months	1.5324	---
1728 months	1.5324	---
1740 months	1.5324	---
1752 months	1.5324	---
1764 months	1.5324	---
1776 months	1.5324	---
1788 months	1.5324	---
1800 months	1.5324	---
1812 months	1.5324	---
1824 months	1.5324	---
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1872 months	1.5324	---
1884 months	1.5324	---
1896 months	1.5324	---
1908 months	1.5324	---
1920 months	1.5324	---
1932 months	1.5324	---
1944 months	1.5324	---
1956 months	1.5324	---
1968 months	1.5324	---
1980 months	1.5324	---
1992 months	1.5324	---
2004 months	1.5324	---
2016 months	1.5324	---
2028 months	1.5324	---
2040 months	1.5324	---
2052 months	1.5324	---
2064 months	1.5324	---
2076 months	1.5324	---
2088 months	1.5324	---
2100 months	1.5324	---
2112 months	1.5324	---
2124 months	1.5324	---
2136 months	1.5324	---
2148 months	1.5324	---
2160 months	1.5324	---
2172 months	1.5324	---
2184 months	1.5324	---
2196 months	1.5324	---
2208 months	1.5324	---
2220 months	1.5324	---
2232 months	1.5324	---
2244 months	1.5324	---
2256 months	1.5324	---
2268 months	1.5324	---
2280 months	1.5324	---
2292 months	1.5324	---
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Lebanon MPs: Kill C&W deal due to Bezeq holdings

BEIRUT (Reuters) - A Lebanese parliamentary committee recommended yesterday that a contract with Cable and Wireless be scrapped because the British firm holds a 10 percent stake in Bezeq.

"We decided, in agreement with the minister of communications, to recommend the breakup of the contract," head of the committee Ayoub Hmayyed told reporters after a meeting attended by Communications Minister Al-Fadel Chalqa.

Cable and Wireless provides management expertise to the ministry under a three-year contract running to 1997.

The company bought a 10.02 percent stake in Bezeq earlier this year.

"The recommendation comes in accordance with Lebanese and Syrian opposition policies to the Israeli enemy and all companies dealing with the Israeli entity," Hmayyed said.

A source in Cable and Wireless said the Arab League boycott of-

fice, which coordinates a boycott of companies linked with Israel, did not have the firm on its list.

"As far as we understand, the issue is a dead issue. When referred to the Arab League, they said there was no reason for a boycott," the source said.

Hmayyed said despite the decision by the boycott office, the issue had to be reconsidered after Cable and Wireless bought into Bezeq.

70,000 VW workers walk off job, protest

WOLFSBURG, Germany (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of Volkswagen AG workers walked off the job and held demonstrations yesterday, driving home demands for higher wages and job security before month-long labor talks resume today.

Union IG Metall said some 70,000 workers held brief strikes at all of VW's six German plants, including the first strike at Volkswagen's main plant in Wolfsburg since 1990.

The walkouts are the most widespread in the growing dispute which, according to Volkswagen spokesman Otto Ferdinand Wachs, has cost the company some \$89 million in lost sales and delayed production of thousands of cars.

Talks have been bogged down over the union's demand that it receive higher wages and job security at the same time that Volkswagen is asking workers to put in overtime with only small increases in extra over-time pay.

Speaking to a group of demonstrators in front of VW's headquarters building, Klaus Volkert, head of the works council said, "We want a fair compromise from the board of directors, not an unreasonable dictate."

The carmaker says it needs concessions from its workforce to remain competitive in the world market place and adjust production to periods of peak demand.

Volkswagen, which says it has tried to compromise, has grown increasingly irritated with IG Metall's tactics.

"After we modified our offer twice in the last round of talks [last week] it is IG Metall's turn to make a move," Wachs said in the text of an interview made available to reporters.

IG Metall first held token strikes last Tuesday at several plants and held a protest march through Hanover.

Especially sensitive for both sides is the union's demand for job guarantees.

Two-Sided, Maof increase slightly

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ

	207.88 +0.21%	211.00 +0.10%
Two-Sided Index		Maof index

LEADING shares closed little changed yesterday as gains in Elbit were offset by losses in Teva and Osem.

The Two-Sided Index rose 0.21% to 207.88, and the Maof Index rose 0.10% to 211.00. Across the exchange about 13 shares rose for every 10 that fell.

Shares worth some NIS 106 million changed hands, 11.4m. above Sunday's figures and about NIS 50m. below average levels two weeks ago.

"The market is in a difficult phase" said Pacific Mediterranean analyst David Rosenberg.

"There was a sell-off last week, then prices rose sharply yesterday; investors may feel more selling is in order."

The Two-Sided Index lost 1.2% last week, and gained 1.79% Sunday.

Maof Index listed Elbit rose 3%. Also on the index, Teva fell 1%. The decline, said Rosenberg, was in response to Sunday's gains of 5.25%, which invest-

ors perceived as an "over-reaction."

Index-listed Osem Investments fell 2%.

Gainers on the Maof Index included Bank Hapoalim, which rose 1.75%.

Also on the index, Tadiran rose 1%.

Tadiran batteries announced it won a contract worth \$3m. to supply lithium batteries for toll roads in Canada.

Bruno wins title

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — He may have a suspect chin and a robotic fighting style. But Frank Bruno deserves 10 out of 10 for persistence.

The 33-year-old British fighter sparked a carnival atmosphere in his country Saturday by winning the world heavyweight title at the fourth attempt.

"Fourteen years. You can't beat that for perseverance," Bruno said. "Now I have the championship belt and no one can take it away."

Bruno gained a unanimous decision over Oliver McCall to take the American's WBC title before 23,000 of his own fans at Wembley stadium.

"It's hard to believe, it hasn't sunk in. So many people stuck behind me all those years," said Bruno, who took three years off to become a TV and stage star in 1989 before returning to the ring.

"I feel on top of the world. He came at me like a madman — I did what I had to survive, that's why I look like E.T. The last round wasn't three minutes, it was like 24 minutes."

Losers to Tim Witherpoon in 1986, Mike Tyson in '89 and Lennox Lewis two years ago, Bruno, now in his 14th year as a pro, made it an emotional night as he notched up his 40th victory against four defeats.

Judge Malcolm Butler of Australia scored the fight 115-113 and Newton Campos, Brazil, and Fay Solis, Mexico, had it 117-111 to spark a night of celebration for the British fans.

It was the first time in history a British-born fighter had won the title in a British ring. Bob Fitzsimmons won it in 1897 in the United States and Lewis was handed the WBC belt after Rid-

dick Bowe had dumped it in a garbage can.

McCall, who won the title from Lewis by knocking him out in two rounds a year ago, lost it after one defense. He gained a decision over Larry Holmes in April.

On the same card, Virgil Hill gained a unanimous decision over Drake Thadzi of Canada, to retain his WBA light-heavyweight title for the eighth time.

And Britain's Nigel Benn knocked out American Danny Ray Perez in the seventh round to defend his WBC super-middleweight title for the ninth time.

After the fight, heavyweight contender Mike Tyson said that he was happy that Bruno won.

"Mike Tyson sent his hearty congratulations to Frank," promoter Don King said Sunday. "As we called him, Mike answered by saying: 'Don't tell me, I bet you Frank won.' He took the punch line away," King said. "He said: 'Give him my best, tell him that's great.'"

It is great for Bruno. Once King has set up a fairly straightforward defense against a lower-ranked fighter, the British heavyweight will be looking at a \$100 million fight with Tyson, who continues his comeback November 4 against Buster Mathis Jr. in Las Vegas.

It's also great for Tyson. He knows he took Bruno's best punch before coming back to nail him in five rounds in 1989.

Bruno, it seems, can't wait to get at Tyson, even though he's on friendly terms with the former undisputed champion.

"I respect him and I love him because he's good for boxing. But my main dream of all is to fight Mike Tyson in a rematch," he said.

NEW YORK (AP) — Monica Seles took another step toward her third US Open title yesterday, defeating 11th-seeded Anke Huber 6-1, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals.

Also advancing to the women's quarters were No. 5 Jana Novotna and, in a mild upset, big-serving Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands.

Novotna defeated unseeded Katarina Stokic of Slovakia 6-4, 6-4, while the 11th-seeded Schultz-McCarthy beat No. 7 Kimiko Date of Japan 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

In a fourth-round men's match, fourth-seeded Boris Becker beat No. 13 Marc Rosset of Switzerland 7-6(7-4), 6-3, 6-3.

Seles won the women's title in 1991 and 1992. Then, in April 1993, she was stabbed by a deranged spectator during a match in Hamburg, Germany.

Ranked No. 1 in the world at the time, Seles didn't return to the tennis tour until last month at the Canadian Open, which she won.

Huber, who broke Seles twice and was her toughest opponent at Toronto, again made a strong bid for the victory on the hardcourts of the National Tennis Center.

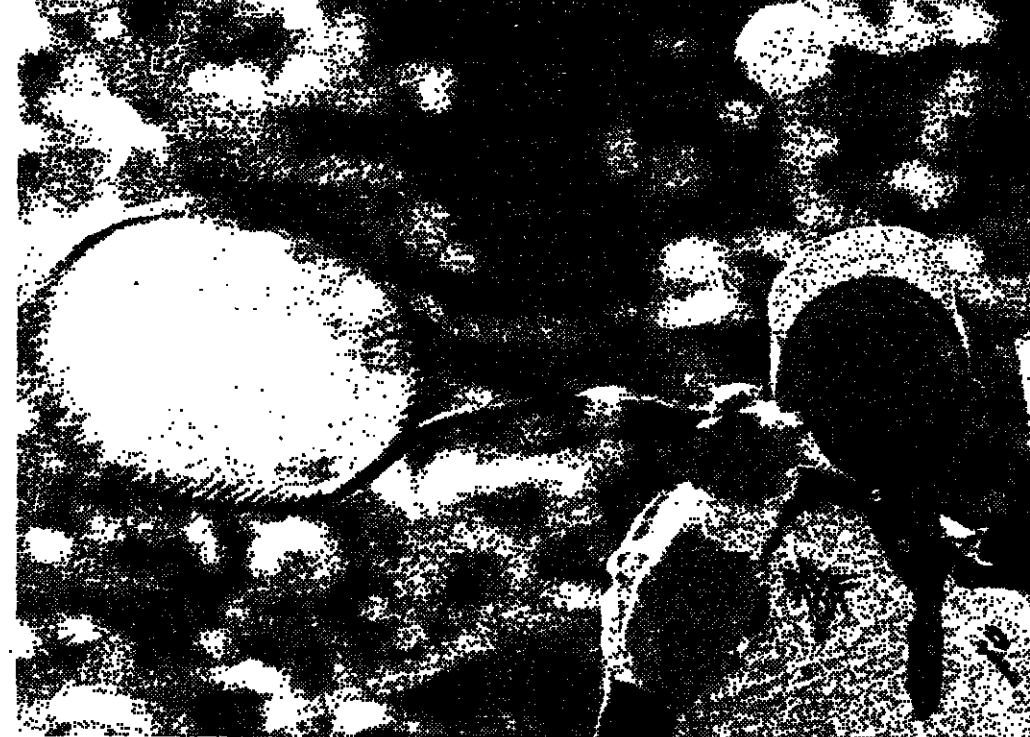
The German broke the tournament's No. 2 seed in the second game of the second set and made Seles stay on court for one hour, 11 minutes, the first time in the tournament that she has needed more than an hour to win a match.

With his win, Becker became a big favorite for a semifinal berth since his quarterfinal loss to the winner of tonight's battle between two unseeded players, Patrick McEnroe and Daniel Vacek.

Because of a rash of upsets, Becker and No. 1 Andre Agassi were the only seeded players left

Seles, Becker advance to quarterfinals

Sampras surges but Vicario is upset



EXPERIENCED SWING — No. 4 Boris Becker hits a return to Marc Rosset during their fourth round US Open match yesterday.

in the top half of the men's singles draw at the National Tennis Center.

It was the Becker of old, the 1989 US Open champion, who took the court against Rosset. Becker blasted 14 aces and, after the first set, controlled the match, which took only 2:01.

The German broke Rosset once in the second set and twice in the third, while never losing his serve.

For Rosset, the 1992 Olympics gold medalist, the loss continued a string of frustration in major events. In the 23 Grand Slam tournaments he has played, Rosset never has reached the quarterfinals.

Schultz-McCarthy is in a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the second time, having advanced that far at Wimbledon this summer. This victory came in an error-plagued match.

Date made 38 unforced errors, while Schultz-McCarthy made 62, including 28 in the first set, which she won.

Match point was typical of most of the match. Date rained a second-serve return into the net.

Meanwhile, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's US Open ended one Sunday too soon.

This was the US Open in which Sanchez Vicario, the defending

women's champion, was going to gain respect. The plan neglected to take into consideration Mary Joe Fernandez.

Seles has returned after nearly 2½ years away from tennis. Steffi Graf is finally considered unbeatable. And Sanchez Vicario had reached the final of the first three Grand Slam tournaments this year.

Then along came Fernandez, grabbing a spot in the quarterfinals with a 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over the No. 3 seed Sunday.

Graf, a three-time US Open champion, and 1990 winner Gabriela Sabatini also reached the quarterfinals, along with unseeded Amy Frazier, a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 winner over 12th-seeded Natasha Zvereva.

Graf beat Chanda Rubin 6-2, 6-2, after Sabatini stopped 14-year-old Martina Hingis of Switzerland 6-2, 6-4.

Playing third-round matches, one round behind the women, winners in the men's singles Sunday included second-seeded, two-time champion Pete Sampras, No. 3 Thomas Muster, No. 5 Michael Chang, No. 8 Michael Stich, No. 14 Jim Courier, No. 15 Todd Martin, Byron Black of Zimbabwe and Michael Tebbutt of Australia, who upset 12th-seeded Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands 6-3, 3-6, 6-7(5), 7-6(7-4), 7-6(7-4).

Sampras defeated Mark Philippoussis, a 6-foot-4 Australian, in a battle of big servers 6-7(5), 7-5, 7-5, 6-3. Together, they pounded 42 aces, 27 by Sampras.

Sampras next plays Martin, another big server, in the fourth round. Martin advanced with a 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 win over Mauricio Hadad of Colombia.

Rutherford named Transvaal captain

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — Sacked New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford has been appointed skipper of South African provincial side Transvaal for the forthcoming cricket season, it was announced yesterday.

The Transvaal Cricket Board said Rutherford had signed a two-year contract.

He was relieved of the New Zealand captaincy earlier this year following a string of poor performances but Transvaal coach Jimmy Cook said he had been impressed by the 30-year-old batsman when he led New Zealand on their tour of South Africa earlier this year.

"He brings a wealth of experience and we hope he can add a little steel to the side to turn draws into wins," Cook said.

The contract means Rutherford will not be available for next year's World Cup even should New Zealand want him.

Rutherford's first match in charge will start on Friday when he captains a young Transvaal side in a three-day friendly against Boland.

Israeli tennis team seeks to subdue Slovenia

HEATHER CHAIT

ISRAEL'S Davis Cup tennis team will tussle with Slovenia later this month in a struggle to remain in the Euro/African Zone Group I.

The squad for the tie to be held in Ramat Hasharon from September 21-23, will include Eyal Ran, Gilad Bloom, Eyal Erlich and Noam Behr. This will be Ran's first Davis Cup encounter as Israel's top racket.

After Israel was trounced 4-1 by Norway in April, where Bloom played disappointingly, his place in the team is by no means assured.

Israel's captain Shlomo Glickstein was not giving away any secrets about the final choice of players, saying, "This is a new, young squad with a string of successes overseas in both singles and doubles. I believe they will prove themselves in this tie."

The first two singles rubbers have been rescheduled from Friday to Thursday to avoid the final day being held on Sunday, which is Rosh Hashana eve.

Oded Ya'acov will be the team coach and Amos Mansdorf is expected to add his experience to the squad.

The main umpire will be Luigi Barabilla from Italy.

To help bring in the crowds, tickets will be offered at a reduced price of NIS 20 for adults and NIS 10 for students and soldiers, according to the event organizers.

Italy plans enquiry over faking fouls

FLORENCE (Reuters) — The president of Italy's soccer federation said yesterday disciplinary officials would meet to discuss a controversial new ruling suspending players who fake injury on the pitch.

Two serie B players, Marco Tomaselli of Reggina and Sebastiano Vecchiola of Venezia, were last week given a one-match ban by sporting judge Alberto Fumagalli, who oversees disciplinary matters in serie A and serie B.

The suspensions followed bookings for "pretending to have been fouled while in an opponent's penalty area" on the opening day of the season.

The suspensions caused a fu-

re, with players and officials caught unawares by the new ruling, and the situation was complicated by Fumagalli's serie C counterpart merely warning players for the same offense.

Matarrese said he had learned of the new rules only after the players were suspended.

One serie A player, Internazionale's Marco Delvecchio, was also booked for a fall in the area on the first day of the season on August 27 and risks a similar ban.

His case has not been examined yet because there was no serie A action last weekend due to Italy's European championship qualifier against Slovenia on Wednesday.

Maradona blasts drug tests

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — The Argentine Football Association is unfairly targeting past offenders in a bid to crack down on drug abuse, Diego Maradona claims.

Maradona, whose second 15-month playing ban for drug-related offenses expires on September 30, said three tests on striker Claudio Caniggia in the last four weeks made a mockery of what was supposed to be random selection.

"This is a country of squealers. It's ridiculous that Caniggia has been tested three times," Maradona said late Sunday in a radio interview from the Uruguayan resort of Punta del Este where he is undergoing a fitness program behind closed doors.

In Argentine league and cup games, two players from both sides are picked randomly to undergo doping tests.

Maradona last year clashed with Argentine national coach Daniel Passarella, who said he was in favor of all players in his squad having rhinoscopy — an examination of the internal structures of the nose — to detect co-

caine use.

Maradona and Caniggia, who between them have been suspended for 43 months for drug abuse in the last four years, will team up this season for first-division side Boca Juniors.

Soccer commentators have expressed concern that Maradona recently hired Daniel Cernini, the dietitian who claimed responsibility for the star testing positive for banned stimulants during the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Maradona was subsequently banned for 15 months by FIFA, soccer's world governing body. He received a similar ban in 1991 for cocaine abuse while playing for Italy's Napoli.

Caniggia was banned for cocaine abuse in 1993 while playing for Italy's Roma.

Maradona, 35 in October, has been training for the last three days in Uruguay with Cernini and other personal assistants.

He claimed he was in good shape for his comeback for Boca on September 30 against South Korea in Seoul: "I'm training hard."

Under-21s playing today

DEREK FATTAL

ISRAEL'S national squad and under-21 (Olympic) side arrived in Slovakia yesterday afternoon, in readiness for their respective qualifying matches against the host counterparts.

The under-21s play the Slovakian team later today in the city of Presov. Coach Yitzhak Shum looks likely to field a similar starting line-up to that employed recently against Hungary.

The under-21s are aiming to achieve the double over the Slovaks.

The national squad continued with its training preparations yesterday for tomorrow's crucial Group 1 European qualifying match in Kosice. The game will determine whether or not the side continues to harbor dreams of participating in its first finals stage of a major competition since appearing in the 1970 World Cup tournament in Mexico.

Brisbane Bears reach playoffs

MELBOURNE (AP) — A last-quarter surge by Tony Lockett led Sydney to a 23-point Australian Football League win over Collingwood on Sunday, allowing the Brisbane Bears into the Australian Rules football finals for the first time.

The result dumped Collingwood out of the top eight and gave Brisbane its first playoff appearance since making its debut in 1987. The Bears will play Carlton next Sunday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Sydney won 19.13 (127) to 15.14 (104) after trailing by 32 points at one stage in the second quarter, giving AFL veteran Ron Barassi a perfect sendoff in his 514th and final game as a coach.

Full-forward Lockett broke Warwick Capper's Sydney record of 103 goals for the season when he got his 104th at the 13-minute mark of the second term. Lockett then kicked four goals in 11 minutes in the final quarter to finish with seven.

Elsewhere as the regular AFL season ended, Carlton, with a record 20 wins and only two losses in the home-and-away season, se-

cured top spot while Geelong finished second. The remainder of the final eight: Essendon, Richmond, North Melbourne, West Coast, Footscray and Brisbane.

In the only other match Sunday, the West Coast Eagles easily beat the Fremantle Dockers 16.15 (111) to 8.10 (58) in a battle of Perth-area teams.

On Saturday, Geelong snatched second spot after powering past Hawthorn 23.10 (148) to 15.12 (102) while Geelong's main competitor for second, Essendon, was beaten by Carlton.

Carlton's 16.12 (108) to 9.13 (67) win was marred by the reporting of Greg Williams, who was booked for abusive language. St Kilda surprised Footscray with a 20.12 (132) to 11.12 (78) victory. In the other game on Saturday, North Melbourne ran up a mammoth 30.24 (204) total to defeat Fitzroy 15.11 (101).

Richmond completed its best placing in 13 years with a 37-point win over Adelaide on Saturday night. The Tigers led all night to win 19.9 (123) to 12.14 (86).

On Friday, the Bears moved into eighth place and the final

playoff position with a 16.14 (110) to 13.11 (89) win over Melbourne.

Weekend AFL results: Sydney 19.13 (127) def. Collingwood 15.14 (104); West Coast 16.15 (111) def. Fremantle Dockers 8.10 (58); Richmond 16.9 (109) def. Adelaide 12.14 (86); Carlton 16.12 (108) def. Essendon 9.13 (67); Geelong 23.10 (148) def. Hawthorn 15.12 (102); North Melbourne 30.24 (204) def. Fitzroy 15.11 (101); St Kilda 20.12 (132) def. Footscray 11.12 (78); Brisbane Bears 16.14 (110) def. Melbourne 13.11 (89).

AFL STANDINGS

	W	L	D	PF	PA	Pts
Carlton	20	2	0	2357	1711	80
Geelong	16	6	0	2338	1939	64
Adelaide	15	6	1	2096	1943	62
Essendon	14	6	2	2464	1931	60
West Coast	14	8	0	2079	1692	56
N. Melbourne	14	8	0	2311	2013	56
Footscray	11	10	1	1879	2054	46
Brisbane	10	12	0	2104	2207	40
Melbourne	9	13	0	1938	1925	36
Collingwood	8	12	2	2043	2111	36
Adelaide	8	13	0	1749	2164	34
Sydney	8	14	0	2314	2299	32
Fremantle	8	14	0	2053	2299	32
St Kilda	8	14	0	1814	2258	32
Hawthorn	7	15	0	1857	1975	28
Fitzroy	2	20	0	1617	2780	8

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Manhunt ends in coffee bar with 43-year-old held for killing former wife

RAINE MARCUS

A MAN who allegedly killed his ex-wife was captured yesterday morning while drinking beer at a Tel Aviv Central Bus Station cafe seven hours after the murder.

Amnon Harazi, 43, who has a criminal record for violence and theft, escaped after shooting Ariela Shahar, 40, a mother of six, in the chest. She died in the hospital, and was buried in Holon yesterday afternoon, Idm reported.

Police are still searching for the murder weapon, and Harazi is maintaining his innocence. Although police said they have eyewitnesses' statements proving his guilt.

According to police, Harazi arrived at his ex-wife's home in southern Tel Aviv just before 2 a.m. She was at home at the time with her boyfriend and some of her children. He called her to come outside, then shot her.

Police initially believed that Harazi had holed himself up in a nearby apartment and launched a massive search.

Shahar's children refused to talk to the press, breaking one reporter's camera and pouring coffee over him, despite the presence of border policemen who had been sent to keep order.

Throughout the day they swore to avenge their mother's death



Amnon Harazi, 43, who has a criminal record for violence and theft, is suspected of shooting his ex-wife, Ariela Shahar, 40. (Yossil Zeliger/TPA)

and police have ordered them not to see Harazi for the next 30 days. Two of the victim's children are from her second marriage, which also ended in divorce.

Although neighbors said that Harazi and his wife had been at odds for the past 10 years, and that there had been violent fights between them, Shahar did not file a complaint with police.

"There were continual fights," said one neighbor. "It doesn't

surprise me it ended this way." Neighbors also said that the pair had owned a kiosk in the neighborhood and that police had suspected Harazi when it was burned to the ground.

"The relationship only deteriorated after the torching," said the neighbor.

Harazi is expected to appear in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing this morning.

Eli Dayan visits Egypt, POW issue on agenda

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

DEPUTY Foreign Minister Eli Dayan left for Egypt last night to get acquainted with top Egyptian officials, and discuss the peace process and the POW issue with them.

Today, Dayan will meet with Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, presidential adviser Osama Baz, and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

Bilateral relations and developments in the peace process will be at the top of the agenda during the meetings. Dayan will survey for his hosts recent developments in talks with the Palestinian Authority and with the Jordanians. He will also request an official summary of the Syrian President Hafez Assad's visit to Egypt Sunday.

Concerning the shooting of POWs, Dayan will make it clear that such incidents, which took place on both sides, should not have occurred, and he will stress that both sides should not allow these incidents to damage future relations between the two countries.

However, Egyptian intellectuals said in Cairo yesterday they would press for IDF army officers who had allegedly killed Egyptian POWs to be tried by a court like the one which dealt with leading Nazis after World War II.

In a statement faxed to Reuters, a new committee of 89 professors, lawyers, researchers, journalists, military experts and politicians said the court should be called "The Sinai International Court for Trying Israeli War

Criminals". Former IDF officers and Israeli historians have taken Egypt by surprise by saying they either witnessed or took part in the killing of Egyptian prisoners-of-war during the Sinai Campaign and the Six Day War.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak says any Israelis responsible should be called to account.

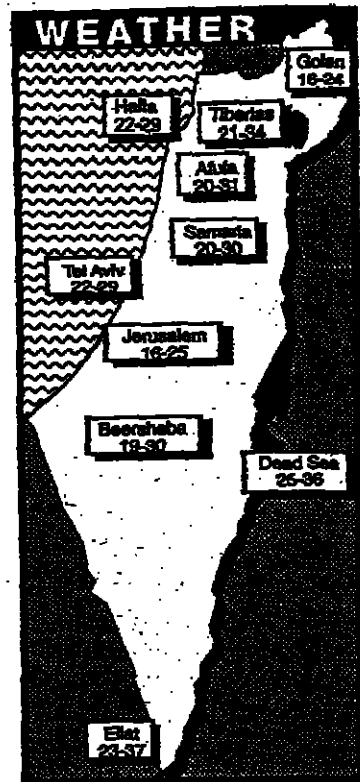
He told reporters on Sunday the killings remained under discussion with Israel to see what could be done to satisfy Egyptian public opinion.

Opposition parties have been criticizing the government for not taking enough action against Israel. Political Islamic groups and leftists have also used the issue to back their stand against peace and normalization with Israel.

Amir Salem, head of a human rights research group which initiated the "national fact-finding committee for the defense of Egyptian POWs," said his group did not want a clash with the government but should be prepared for one if necessary.

"If we have to clash with the government's policy of normalization, we will do that but that is not our main purpose. We actually want the government to help us," he said.

"We want to prove to the world that they [the Israelis] are the new Nazis and this is one of the most important purposes of this committee," he told the meeting which set up the committee.



AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cond
Berlin	11	22	clear
London	11	18	cloudy
Paris	11	18	cloudy
Rome	11	18	cloudy
Madrid	11	18	cloudy
Barcelona	11	18	cloudy
Amsterdam	11	18	cloudy
Brussels	11	18	cloudy
Frankfurt	11	18	cloudy
Munich	11	18	cloudy
Zurich	11	18	cloudy
Geneva	11	18	cloudy
Basel	11	18	cloudy
Vienna	11	18	cloudy
Budapest	11	18	cloudy
Warsaw	11	18	cloudy
Prague	11	18	cloudy
Bratislava	11	18	cloudy
Sofia	11	18	cloudy
Belgrade	11	18	cloudy
Zagreb	11	18	cloudy
Ljubljana	11	18	cloudy
Trieste	11	18	cloudy
Venice	11	18	cloudy
Naples	11	18	cloudy
Rome	11	18	cloudy
Milan	11	18	cloudy
Turin	11	18	cloudy
Genoa	11	18	cloudy
Palermo	11	18	cloudy
Catania	11	18	cloudy
Syracuse	11	18	cloudy
Messina	11	18	cloudy
Cagliari	11	18	cloudy
Cosentino	11	18	cloudy
Imperia	11	18	cloudy
La Spezia	11	18	cloudy
Livorno	11	18	cloudy
Porto Torres	11	18	cloudy
Genoa	11	18	cloudy
La Spezia	11	18	cloudy
Livorno	11	18	cloudy
Porto Torres	11	18	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, queen of hearts, nine of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

Amman to TA flights expected this month

Five flights a week

JORDAN and Israel are expected to sign an aviation agreement next week and flights between Tel Aviv and Amman will start up days later, the head of Arkia Israeli Airlines Ltd. said yesterday.

Arkia president Israel Borovich said the government had yet to decide whether the privately held Arkia or state-owned El Al Israel Airlines would fly to Amman.

Jordanian and Israeli officials last week said they had settled all aspects of an aviation accord that would allow flights between the countries, except for airport security measures.

The two sides agreed to five weekly flights between Amman and Tel Aviv.

An agreement was also reached to expand Jordan's Aqaba airport to let Israelis use it for passengers heading to Eilat. This will transform Aqaba into the regional airport, Borovich said.

"To get permission to fly to Eilat now we will have to apply to the Jordanian government," Borovich said. "I see a lot of problems with the solution."

He said this would also present marketing difficulties for Israeli tour operators.

"Until now Israel has promoted a destination called Eilat. Now this destination is gone," he said. (Reuters)

Rain and cool just temporary

DAVID RUDGE

LIGHT rain fell in several parts of the country yesterday and temperatures dropped to below the seasonal average - just a few days after summer time officially ended.

The advent of the autumnal weather, however, is expected to be shortlived and a rise in temperatures is forecast by the middle of the week.

The meteorological service said the weather would remain partly cloudy today with a chance of further light and localized

showers, mainly in the north.

These are expected to die out in the course of the day and be followed on Wednesday by a gradual rise in temperatures to more normal levels for this time of year.

The rain yesterday was confined mainly to the coastal region, including the Tel Aviv area and many places in the north, including Haifa, Beit She'an and the Galilee.

Strong winds had a further cooling effect and whipped up waves along the coast to heights of over one-and-a-half meters in some areas.

This prompted the weather bureau to issue a warning to bathers.

Police reported that the rain had contributed to a spate of road accidents in the north and the coastal area, although there were no reports of any serious injuries as a result of the weather-related accidents.

Exchange of heavy fire with Hizbullah

DAVID RUDGE

HEAVY exchanges were again reported in south Lebanon yesterday following long-range attacks in the morning by Hizbullah gunmen on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions inside the security zone.

Reports from Lebanon said the positions, in the Ali Tahr hill range in the zone's eastern sector, came under mortar, anti-tank and light weapons fire.

There were no casualties and no damage as a result of the shooting and IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

The exchanges lasted for several hours. Hizbullah radio said its gunmen had attacked positions in the Dabsha area from close quarters and that residents of Nabatiya had been "overjoyed to witness the attack."

There were no reports of any casualties among Hizbullah gunmen as a result of the IDF and SLA shelling. One report on a Lebanese radio station, however, said a resident of Tibnit village had been wounded by IDF sniper fire. There was no confirmation of this report from any other sources.

Lebanese radio stations also reported that a number of homes in the Nabatiya and Roumane areas had been badly damaged by IDF and SLA shelling.

Green activists launch campaign against proposed city of Iiron

DAVID RUDGE and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

CONSERVATIONISTS led by the Environment Ministry yesterday launched a campaign against a Housing Ministry proposal to build a new city, to be known as Iiron, in the heart of the Menashe hills region.

A packed meeting of environmentalists and local council heads at the Society for the Protection of Nature's (SPNI) field school at Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael came out strongly against the plans.

The proposals call for the establishment of a new city in the Ramot Menashe region that would start with the construction of 5,000 homes and eventually be home to 350,000 people.

The preliminary plans for Iiron, to be erected in the open wild area of Ramot Menashe at the outlets of the Menashe, Dalia and Taninim rivers, are to be presented to the regional planning and construction commission after the holidays. But a Housing Ministry source said the construc-

tion plans for Iiron are still being examined.

Only after all the plans are approved by the commission, will Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer present them for cabinet approval, the ministry source said.

The source noted, however, that "the housing shortage in that area and all around Haifa is acute and more housing units are imperative. There are no other land reserves left and the entire central region is saturated."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who was among the participants at the meeting yesterday, declared he would use all the means in his power to veto the proposals.

Sarid said the Housing Ministry was apparently anxious to speed up the proposed project even though no decision had been taken by the relevant authorities.

He vowed that the present gov-

ernment would not approve such a project.

SPNI director-general Eitan Gedelson said the planned new city was against the long-term policies of the Interior Ministry and even the Housing Ministry.

He stressed that Ramot Menashe is one of the few remaining "green areas" on the periphery of the central region. "Our country needs several green areas to allow people space to breathe and move around freely," Gedelson told reporters at the scene yesterday.

The Nature Reserves Authority has also voiced its complete opposition to the plan which it said would destroy areas of natural beauty and endanger wildlife.

Similar comments were expressed by local authority leaders and residents who maintained that efforts should be concentrated on developing and expanding existing settlements, while preserving natural assets.

Representative number of Ethiopians make it to college

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE percentage of students of Ethiopian origin who will study in institutions of higher learning this year will be about the same as the percentage of immigrants from Ethiopia in the general population, the Education Ministry announced yesterday.

The ministry was reacting to a report by the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews, which accused educators of sending youngsters of Ethiopian origin into vocational tracks without

testing their ability.

The report, on the absorption of Ethiopian Jews into the educational system, was presented to the Knesset Education Committee chairwoman Dalia Itzik yesterday.

Ethiopian immigrants testified during the Knesset press conference that some schools, such as a junior high school in Gedera and the Ramle-Lod High School had

accepted only three of 14 outstanding Ethiopian pupils who applied.

Prof. Reuven Feurstein, an Israel Prize laureate in education, said extensive tests carried out by his staff indicated that Ethiopian children have a high potential.

"They must be given the tools to learn," Feurstein said.

He added that he did not believe the Ethiopian immigrants had been given this opportunity by the school system.

Prof. Nathan Spiegel, 89

NATHAN Spiegel, professor emeritus of classics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a 1990 Israel Prize laureate, died yesterday in Jerusalem at age 89.

Born in New York in 1905, Spiegel was educated in Austria and Poland and immigrated to Israel in 1957. For many years he taught Greek and Latin and worked to make the general Israeli public familiar with the classics, especially central figures in Greek and Roman culture. He retired in 1974. JP Staff

NEWS IN BRIEF

WUJS wins Quality of Life Prize

The Knesset Speaker's Quality of Life Prize was awarded yesterday to the WUJS Institute in Arad for its advancement of Israel-Diaspora relations among Jewish students throughout the world.

Clive Lessem, the director of WUJS-Arad, accepted the NIS 10,000 award for the institute. WUJS was cited for its unique accomplishments in Jewish-Zionist education and promotion of immigration to Israel from affluent countries, and also for its great contribution to strengthening ties between Diaspora Jewry and Israel. Jerusalem Post Staff

(Continued from Page One) the community and Arafat are opposed to paying ransom lest it encourage further thefts. However, Arafat would be amenable to some sort of exchange in kind, an object which is known in Arabic as *hidiya*, a gift.

The theft of the two ancient manuscripts comes as the Samaritan community is concerned over political developments that could leave it divided between those who live in the Nablus area and those in Holon. Before 1967, the two parts of the community could only be together when they performed their ancient Pessah sacri-

SAMARITAN

fice on Mt. Gerizim, near Nablus, and even then some members of the community were kept from entering what was then Jordan.

In an effort to forestall any such problem in the future, a delegation of Samaritan leaders recently visited the US and England, and met with State Department and Foreign Office officials through the good offices of human rights organizations in both countries. The Samaritans suggested that they be given a special *laissez passer*, issued

jointly by Israel and the Palestinian Authority and guaranteed by the US.

According to Tsedaka, Kenneth Jarrett, the assistant to Dennis Ross, head of the Israeli Desk in the State Department, said that it is a very good idea and should be discussed in a positive way. Came Ross, head of the Arab-Israeli Section of the Foreign Office, told Tsedaka that it is very wise to bring up the idea now, not leave it for later.

"I hope we will never have to use [the *laissez passer*] and if we do, I hope both sides will honor it," Tsedaka said.

scind his demotion.

Mladic's letter, a copy of which was faxed to the Belgrade bureau of The Associated Press, urged an urgent meeting of military commanders of the warring sides that would result in "complete, permanent and unconditional cessation of hostilities."

SERB

pressuring the Serbs for a quick response, are likely to agree to.

Tensions between Karadzic and Mladic's exploded recently after Karadzic tried to demote his general. Mladic ignored Karadzic, who then was forced to re-

HaZorfim

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